

Market Report

1/24/22 - 1/29/22

WEATHER: Nice weather is forecasted for the desert this week and very cold in the East as reported by Palmer Foods. No rain is forecasted for the desert or Salinas. A littler warmer Thursday/Friday with temps in the upper 60s to upper 70s. Morning lows in the Mohawk Valley will be in the upper 30s-low 40s most of the week. Strong gusty winds up to 35-40 mph SE CA and 25-30 mph elsewhere Thursday / Friday.

EXTENDED OUTLOOK: Northerly winds continue through Jan. 23 with temps near-to-above normal. High pressure ridge could warm temps into the low 70s to low 80s Jan 24-27. Possible cooling (mid 60s to mid-70s) Jan 28-30 should a weak cut-off low develop off the Southern CA coast. Otherwise, afternoon highs will remain unseasonably warm into the beginning of Feb.

AVOCADO -- Alert -- Supplies are good. Jumbo and #2 70cts are tight. Markets are steady with some corrections depending on the size. Smaller sizes will feel the most pressure. Fruit is smaller from Mexico. Overall good quality & performance. Low percentage of yellowing from cold weather.

ASPARAGUS -- The market is active. Mexican volume is tight due to cold weather, and Peru's volume is declining. Quality is good.

BASIL -- Slightly peppery with a hint of sweetness and traces of mint and clove. Blends well with garlic, thyme, and lemon. Enhances salad dressings, sauces, and Italian and French foods.

BROCOLLI -- Supplies are steady this week.

BRUSSEL SPROUTS -- Alert -- Volume will be reduced this week as production regions transition and the open market shows no signs of retreating in the near term. Expect to see reduced fill rates on both the bulk 25 lb. pack and the VA category. Improved volume should be in about 2-3 weeks and open market prices should ease.

CARROTS -- Pricing is increasing.

CAULIFLOWER -- Alert -- Supplies are expected to be lighter than normal for the next few weeks.

CELERY -- Continues to struggle with supply and demand. Pricing is increasing. Quality is good and the market is steady in Oxnard. We are harvesting in Mexico and Oxnard.

CILANTRO -- Volume is expected to be on budget this week. Overall quality is very nice.

GREEN ONIONS -- Alert -- Market is still active due to cold temperatures the past two weeks and a shortage of labor.

GREEN BEANS -- Florida quality is erratic with sluggish demand. The market is high on good quality beans. Mexican volume is steady with moderate demand. The market is expected to get stronger.

KALE -- Supplies are expected to be plentiful for the next few weeks.

LETTUCE -- Supplies will be heavy the next two weeks. Now is a good time to increase your ten-week average. Quality has been very good, and the market is steady to slightly softer. Forecast is for prices to be steady at current levels for the next week or two.

LEAF & ROMAINE -- Production of Romaine supplies are beginning to trend below budget. We are experiencing some quality issues at the field level ultimately reducing yields but improving. Plants that are healthy are exhibiting good color, texture, and quality overall. We will continue to be subject to occasional fringe burn and lighter weights. Overall demand is steady. Quality in the desert is good on Green Leaf. Demand is good, and pricing remains steady.

NAPPA --Volume is expected to be plentiful for the next few weeks.

PARSLEY -- No change, supply is expected to be lighter than normal for the next two weeks.

SPRING MIX -- We have good supply, color, and outstanding quality.

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Market Report Continued

PEPPERS -- Alert -- Eastern green bell supplies will be light for next few weeks due to warm temps and wind. Mexican supplies of green bells are short due to cold weather. The market on Mexican field red bells is tight; yellow is steady. Quality is very good Overall good quality, size, and texture.

CUCUMBERS -- We have good supplies of green, red, and yellow bells this week from Nogales. Volume will be on Large and Extra-Large sizes on all colors. Movement from Mexico crossings through Nogales, AZ, is expected to increase. Trading was active at much higher prices. Supplies remain heavy with moderate demand as buyers continue to purchase only what is needed to fill orders. Movement of Mexican cucumber crossings through Texas is expected to increase slightly. Trading was moderate early and active later with demand improving to moderate. Prices were much higher, though quality is reported as variable.

ZUCCHINI -- Supply should pick up as weather will be slightly warmer this week, yellow squash volume should increase by next week.

POTATOES -- Idaho had leveled off a bit, and the market is steady, with very good quality.

ONIONS -- Prices on onions are holding or pushing up. Tighter supplies have led to stronger pricing on onions and higher freight rates also factor into that pricing. The real value in the Onion market is currently on Medium Yellow. It's the lowest supply available in many, many years. We have very high pricing currently, and I believe that pricing will continue to increase from now through April.

TOMATOES --

Rounds: Not much change from last week. Hearing talk about markets getting stronger, however, it seemed as though that was just talk. Florida's production is down slightly, but not enough to really justify taking the market up. Mexico still is not producing enough for the flood gates to open up. Currently status quo for this week. Demand is fair as parts of the country are dealing with a massive snowstorm and very cold weather. Quality continues to be very good from both Mexico and Florida. We are expecting Mexico to keep gaining strength as more and more fields are opening for the Winter season.

Grape: Trending up. Florida had cooler weather recently and picking fewer days than normal this week. There is less volume and they have taken their market up a couple of dollars from last week. At the McAllen crossing point for Mexican grapes, product has been extremely limited. This is forcing buyers to Nogales where there was plenty of supply to start the week but with the current increase in demand it is forcing the market up.

Cherry: Nogales now has increased volume. Three larger growers are crossing product. Florida volume is steady. Quality is good from both areas. The cheaper lots of cherries in Nogales are a softer cherry and may be an issue for some receivers.

Roma: There is currently a split FOB market between Florida (currently higher) and Mexico (currently lower). There is plenty of supply available. Mexico is driving the market as they have most of the volume. Quality is very good.

APPLES -- U.S. fresh apple holdings on Jan. 1 totaled 87.7 million bushels, 2.9% less than the inventories reported a year ago, according to a new report from the Falls Church, Va.-based U.S. Apple Association. Fresh apple holdings on Jan. 1 were about 12% lower than the January 5-year average, according to the survey.

BLUEBERRIES -- Overall fewer Chilean blueberries are making their way to U.S. markets than usual. There are reports that shipments are being delayed by labor shortages in Chile and held up in inspections, as well as diverted to other countries. Movement of Peruvian imports of blueberries arriving through both the Philadelphia and New York City areas and through Southern California ports via boat is expected to decrease as the season nears its end.

BLACKBERRIES -- Steady supply through January. We are entering the transition period between the early and mid-part of the central Mexico season. The transition will keep the volume steady. California regions will contribute minimal volume due to the rain and cold temperatures expected through the next couple of weeks.

RASPBERRIES -- Alert -- Supply is low due to cool temperatures throughout all growing regions, as well as rains in California. It is our expectation in the coming weeks, we will see supply improve as Central Mexico and Baja production volume improves. California supply will remain relatively low throughout the next several months.

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Market Report Continued

CITRUS –

Lemons -- demand is picking up here also (exports), Dist. III is finishing up and Dist. I is in full swing. Fruit quality is very nice, especial when it is packed in a Pro Mark label.

Oranges -- Pro Mark Navels are in full swing. Demand has increased as exports are continuing to come in. The market is advancing also. Smaller fruit is demand exceeds; quality is very good. No rain in the forecast for the next 10 days.

Limes -- **Alert** -- The lime market is currently on fire! Limes continue to soar in price. From what our farms are reporting, key limes are the preferred limes used in mainland Mexico and those are tight to non-existent. This is causing more limes to remain in Mexico versus coming up to cross the border. Adding additional stress to the market, lime trees do not have much fruit right now as the bloom back in November/December didn't take very well. There is supposedly a new crop coming on at the end of January to help break the market. At this point, negotiations are ever-changing regarding prices crossing the border. We will continue to monitor this situation and source the best quality limes for the best price possible.

GRAPES -- **Alert** -- We have had times where supplies are tight, but I do not recall ever being told none! We are currently waiting for Peruvian / Chilean grapes to arrive. All grapes are in a demand exceeds situation and I feel that we will be facing this situation until mid- February. Vessel delays / unloading are compounding the situation.

MANGOES -- The National Mango Board (NMB) said mango consumption in the United States had experienced an interesting and constructive growth in 2021. It was a very difficult year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but we have a very combative industry and a superfood that captivates consumers of all ages.

MELONS --

Cantaloupe -- Still decent supplies of offshore cantaloupes this week here on the West Coast.

Honeydews -- supplies are getting better, but market is still very strong on both East and West coast and quality is also good to excellent.

Watermelon -- Seedless watermelons are steady and will include the offshore supply, which will raise availability. Quality of the new crop from Mexico is looking very good as well. Mini watermelons have become a huge consumer favorite.

Market Reprt Summarized from our Friends at Legacy Foodservice and ProMark

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