

Produce Market Advisory

For the week of July 2, 2018

Market Alerts

Recommended Items to Avoid



GRAPES Pricing and quality on **Green** and **Red Grapes** have improved from last week. Quality is still fair, and prices are about 5% higher than normal. Conditions should be completely back to normal in one more week, now that California's grape harvest has begun.



ICEBERG LETTUCE A short supply gap in both northern and southern California's growing regions has caused prices on **whole head Iceberg** to increase by about 20%. Quality is good. Consider using **Romaine, Green Leaf or pre-cut mixes** for optimal cost.



TOMATOES Supplies of **Round, Roma, Grape and Cherry Tomatoes** have all increased, with California, Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern growing areas all ramping up for their summer harvests. Pricing is lower than in prior weeks and is expected to continue dropping, but still slightly higher than normal this week. 5x6 or smaller Rounds and Grapes are the best buys."



STRAWBERRIES After the recent long stretch of abundant supplies and great pricing, the **Strawberry** crop is harvesting lower numbers than expected. Quality is good to fair, with smaller/unevenly sized fruit the most common issue reported. Pricing may be higher in certain markets. **Blueberries, Blackberries** and even **Raspberries** may be better overall values.



ASPARAGUS A short harvesting gap, due to the heavy rains from Tropical Storm Bud in Mexico, have caused supplies to tighten and prices to spike by 20%. **Pencil** size is the best value by far, followed by **Standard**, both of which are Compass' preferred spec. Quality is good.

MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

Berries: Quality is excellent on Blueberries, Blackberries and Raspberries.



Eastern Vegetables: Eggplant, Squash, Bell Peppers and Cucumbers out of the Southeastern U.S. are all very nice quality and good pricing.



Leaf Lettuce: Green Leaf, Red Leaf and Romaine Lettuce are plentiful, with great quality and low pricing. Great alternatives to Iceberg!



Avocados: Quality on Avocados out of California and Mexico is outstanding.



Stone Fruit: California, Georgia and South Carolina are producing great Peaches, Nectarines and Plums.



Produce Meter

● Good ● Fair ● Caution

Commodity	Quality	Market
Apples	●	●
Asparagus	●	●
Avocado	●	●
Bananas	●	●
Bell Peppers (Western)	●	●
Bell Peppers (Eastern)	●	●
Berries: Strawberries	●	●
Berries: Raspberries	●	●
Berries: Blackberries	●	●
Berries: Blueberries	●	●
Broccoli	●	●
Carrots	●	●
Cauliflower	●	●
Celery	●	●
Citrus: Lemons	●	●
Citrus: Limes	●	●
Citrus: Oranges	●	●
Cucumbers (Western)	●	●
Cucumbers (Eastern)	●	●
Eggplant (Western)	●	●
Eggplant (Eastern)	●	●
Garlic	●	●
Grapes, Green	●	●
Grapes, Red	●	●
Green Onions	●	●
Lettuce: Romaine / Leaf	●	●
Lettuce: Iceberg	●	●
Lettuce: Spring Mix/Spinach	●	●
Melons: Cantaloupe	●	●
Melons: Honeydew	●	●
Melons: Watermelon	●	●
Onions	●	●
Pears	●	●
Potatoes	●	●
Squash (Western)	●	●
Squash (Eastern)	●	●
Tomatoes (Western)	●	●
Tomatoes (Eastern)	●	●

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(continued)

A Peek at Peak Seasons

The local growing season for most of the U.S. is heating up. Look for these most commonly harvested products in the following regions, and be sure to ask your distributor for locally grown recommendations!

Northeast/Mid-Atlantic – Blueberries, Squash, Eggplant, Peppers

Southeast – Tomatoes, Peppers, Squash, Peaches, Watermelons

Midwest – Blueberries, Peppers, Corn, Greens

Pacific Northwest – Asparagus, Blueberries, Cherries, Radishes, Beets

Southwest – Cabbage, Sweet Potatoes, Okra, Melons

Weather Update

California: Typical summertime weather across the Central Coast, with plenty of moisture on the coastal fields.

Mexico: A large tropical system off the coast of Southwestern Mexico may bring more rain to the region. Temperatures are seasonal.

Florida: Seasonal temperatures and afternoon showers throughout most of the state.

 APPLES	Quality and pricing are good
 ASPARAGUS	Quality is good, pricing is much higher. Pencil and Standard are the best values.
 AVOCADO	Quality and pricing are good
 BELL PEPPERS	Quality is good, pricing is higher on Red and Yellow
 BERRIES (BLACKBERRIES)	Quality and pricing are good
 BERRIES (BLUEBERRIES)	Quality and pricing are good
 BERRIES (RASPBERRIES)	Quality and pricing are good
 BERRIES (STRAWBERRIES)	Quality is good to fair, pricing may be higher
 BROCCOLI	Quality and pricing are good
 CARROTS	Quality and pricing are good
 CAULIFLOWER	Quality and pricing are good
 CELERY	Quality and pricing are good
 CITRUS (LEMONS)	Quality and pricing are good
 CITRUS (LIMES)	Quality and pricing are good
 CITRUS (ORANGES)	Quality is good, pricing is slightly higher on smaller sizes

 CUCUMBERS	Quality is good to fair, pricing is higher
 EGGPLANT	Quality is good to fair, pricing is higher on Western product
 GARLIC	Pricing remains high for fresh product, due to import shortages Quality is good
 GRAPES (GREEN)	Quality is fair, pricing is higher
 GRAPES (RED)	Quality is fair, pricing is higher
 GREEN ONIONS	Quality and pricing are good
 LETTUCE ICEBERG	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 LETTUCE LEAF	Quality and pricing is good
 MELON (CANTALOUPE)	Quality and pricing are good
 MELON (HONEYDEW)	Quality is good, pricing is slightly higher
 MELON (WATERMELON)	Quality and pricing are good
 ONIONS	Quality and pricing are good
 PEARS	Quality and pricing are good
 POTATOES	Quality is good, pricing is higher. 90 CT and smaller sizes are the best value.
 SQUASH	Quality and pricing are good
 TOMATOES	Quality is good, pricing is higher, smaller Rounds are the best value