

Produce Market Advisory

For the week of August 27, 2018

Market Alerts

Recommended Items to Avoid



CUCUMBERS Supplies of all grades of field-grown Cucumbers out of California and Mexico are very light due to heat-related crop damage, and pricing is up to 30% higher than normal in the western half of the U.S. Eastern product is less expensive, but quality is still fair. Consider using **English (seedless) Cucumbers** as an alternative.



LEMONS Extreme heat in the western growing regions for citrus has caused a shortage of all sizes of **Lemons** that is expected to last for several weeks. Orders may be shorted or substituted with a different size or grade, pricing may be higher than normal in certain markets, and quality is fair. The best values will be **140 CT, 165 CT and 200 CT choice-grade** product, where available.



AVOCADOS Supplies are decreasing rapidly, due to California's heat wave earlier in the month, and crop transition in Mexico. Pricing is higher than normal, but quality is still good. **#2-grade, 48 CT and 60 CT Avocados** are the best value.



ASPARAGUS An early end to Central Mexico's harvest, and cold weather across Peru, has tightened supplies on all sizes of Asparagus. Pricing is up to 20% higher than normal, with good quality reported. Pencil and Standard sizes are the best value.



ORANGES Supplies of **138 CT and smaller Oranges** are limited, and will continue to be through the end of the Valencia season in autumn. Use **113 CT and larger** where possible. "Re-greening", which is a heat-related greenish tinge to the exterior of fully ripened fruit, is being reported.

MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

Pears: New crop Bartlett, Bosc and Red Pears are all being harvested out of California and Washington. Quality is excellent, with firm fruit and good sweetness.



Melons: Cantaloupe and Honeydew are very nice quality, with high sugar levels. Specialty melons such as Casaba, Galia and Juan Canary are also now in season



Kale: Quality is excellent with good color and full bunches.



Grapes: Quality is excellent, with great texture and sweetness, on Red and Green medium-sized fruit.



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)	●	●

Produce Market Advisory (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 – Squash, Tomatoes, Eggplant, Cucumbers, Peppers, Corn, Stone Fruit, Lettuce

Southeast – Greens, Tomatoes, Peaches, Watermelons

Midwest – Eggplant, Celery, Corn, Peppers, Apples

Pacific Northwest – Chard, Kale, Onions, Beets, Pears, Apples

Southwest – Cabbage, Sweet Potatoes, Melons, Tomatoes, Stone Fruit

Weather Update

California: Slightly cooler temperatures, both inland and coastal areas.

Mexico: Seasonal moisture and temperatures in most growing regions, with potential tropical storm activity on the Southwestern coast.

Florida: Seasonal temperatures, with periods of heavy rain expected in the northern half of the state.

 APPLES	Quality and pricing are good
 ASPARAGUS	Quality is good, pricing is higher on all sizes, Pencil is the best buy
 AVOCADO	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BELL PEPPERS	Quality and pricing are good
 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 is fair, pricing is extremely high, supplies are limited
 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 much higher on Western product
 EGGPLANT	Quality and pricing are good
 GARLIC	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 GRAPES (GREEN)	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 GRAPES (RED)	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 GREEN ONIONS	Quality and pricing are good
 LETTUCE ICEBERG	Quality is fair, pricing is higher
 LETTUCE LEAF	Quality and pricing are good
 MELON (CANTALOUPE)	Quality and pricing are good
 MELON (HONEYDEW)	Quality and pricing are good
 MELON (WATERMELON)	Quality and pricing are good
 ONIONS	Quality and pricing are good
 PEARS	Quality and pricing are good
 POTATOES	Quality and pricing are good
 SQUASH	Quality and pricing are good
 TOMATOES	Quality and pricing are good