

Produce Market Advisory

For the week of September 17, 2018

Market Alerts

Recommended Items to Avoid



HURRICANE FLORENCE UPDATE North and South Carolina, Georgia, Eastern Tennessee and southern Virginia are all potentially impacted by Florence's heavy rain and wind. Crops that may be affected in the near future include **Sweet Potatoes, Fall Squash, Cucumbers, Eggplant and Tomatoes**. Be sure to read the Produce Market Advisory for up-to-date information.



ORANGES | **13 CT and smaller Oranges** are very scarce, and will continue to be through the end of October when the Navel season begins and the Valencia season ends. **88 CT and larger sizes** are plentiful. Quality is fair to poor on all sizes and grades, with softness, mold and decay all reported. Consider **Apples** or **Stone Fruit** as a hand fruit alternative.



LEMONS The prolonged shortage of **Lemons** is beginning to ease, now that new growing areas in southern California and Arizona are ramping up. Supplies are 2-3 weeks away from returning to normal. Pricing remains higher than normal on all grades and sizes, with fair quality.



CUCUMBERS The initial harvest out of Baja California is very light, and available product is not keeping up with demand. Pricing remains up to 30% higher than normal in the western half of the U.S. Quality is fair, and Select-grade product is the best value.



AVOCADOS Supplies out of Mexico remain light. Pricing is higher than normal, with good quality reported. 48 or 60 CT, #2 grade product is the best value.



BERRIES Harvest transition in California, Michigan and the Pacific Northwest has tightened supplies of **Strawberries, Blueberries** and **Blackberries**. Quality is good, but pricing may be higher in certain markets.

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.

Apples: New crop varieties are being harvested out of Washington, Michigan and New York, including Ginger Gold, Gala and Macintosh.

Potatoes: New crop Idaho potatoes are now in season. Quality and pricing are very good.

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

Melons: Quality is outstanding on Cantaloupe and Honeydew out of Southern California, with very good sugar levels. Pricing is also very good.



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 – Apples, Root Vegetables, Corn, Kale, Lettuce, Peppers, Fall Squash

Southeast – Beans, Cabbage, Corn, Cucumbers, Greens, Sweet Potatoes

Midwest – Peppers, Cucumbers, Celery, Corn, Apples, Fall Squash

Pacific Northwest – Apples Pears, Potatoes, Berries, Lettuce, Fall Squash

Southwest – Corn, Okra, Potatoes, Squash, Sweet Potatoes, Melons

Weather Update

California: Temperatures will warm to above normal again in Central California's inland regions, with cooler temps to the south.

Mexico: Seasonal temperatures and precipitation in most growing regions.

Southeastern U.S. : Hurricane Florence will impact North and South Carolina, Georgia, Eastern Tennessee and southern Virginia with heavy rain and high winds. Florida is expected to avoid its most significant effects.

 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 is good, pricing is higher
 BERRIES (BLUEBERRIES)	Quality is fair, pricing is higher
 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 higher, supplies are limited
 CITRUS (LIMES)	Quality and pricing are good
 CITRUS (ORANGES)	Quality is fair, pricing is higher, supplies are limited

 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 and pricing are good
 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 is good, pricing is higher on Western product
 TOMATOES	Quality and pricing are good