

Produce Market Advisory

For the week of September 24, 2018

Market Alerts

Recommended Items to Avoid



EASTERN VEGETABLES Hurricane Florence's heavy rains and winds last week impacted supplies of **Cucumbers, Bell Peppers, Eggplant, and Squash**. Quality is good to fair, and pricing may be higher in certain markets, particularly in the eastern half of the country.



BERRIES Harvest transition continues to affect supplies and quality of **Strawberries, Blueberries, and Blackberries**. Quality is fair, and pricing may be higher in certain markets.



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.



LEMONS The **Lemon** shortage is almost over, now that new growing areas in southern California and Arizona are beginning to harvest. Supplies are 1-2 weeks away from returning to normal. Pricing continues to decrease, but remains slightly higher than normal, with fair quality.



TOMATOES **Roma, Cherry, and Grape tomatoes** have all been affected by Hurricane Florence in the Southeast and heavy rains in Mexico's Baja region. Quality is fair and pricing is higher. **Round tomatoes** are the best cost and quality option.

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 cool slightly to seasonal levels across Central California.

Mexico: Heavy rains from a tropical storm expected in Baja and Northwestern Mexico, with isolated showers in the Central region.

Southeastern U.S. : Seasonal temperatures and precipitation throughout 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 is fair, pricing is good
 BERRIES (BLACKBERRIES)	Quality and pricing are fair
 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 fair
 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 and pricing are fair
 TOMATOES	Quality is fair and pricing is higher on Grapes, Cherries and Romas