

Produce Market Advisory

For the week of September 3, 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 has tightened supplies on all sizes of Asparagus. Pricing is up to 20% higher than normal, primarily in the Western half of the country. Quality is good. 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.

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

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)	●	●

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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, Beets, Cabbage, Corn, Kale, Lettuce, Cucumbers, Peppers, Eggplant, Radishes, Tomatoes

Southeast – Beans, Cabbage, Corn, Cucumbers, Greens, Yams, Summer Squash

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

Pacific Northwest – Apples, Pears, Berries, Broccoli, Eggplant, Lettuce, Potatoes, Melons

Southwest – Corn, Okra, Potatoes, Squash, Cucumbers, Yams, Melons

Weather Update

California: Temperatures are cooling slightly across all growing regions, particularly along the coast.

Mexico: Showers and thunderstorms in the south and central regions, with above average temperatures.

Florida: Very warm temperatures and seasonal precipitation.

 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 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 is good, pricing is higher
 CARROTS	Quality and pricing are good
 CAULIFLOWER	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 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 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 good
 TOMATOES	Quality and pricing are good