

Produce Market Advisory

For the week of October 8, 2018

Market Alerts

Recommended Items to Avoid



SUMMER SQUASH - ZUCCHINI SQUASH is fair quality, with some withering and spotting reported. Pricing is 10% higher than normal. Consider using **Yellow Squash** or fall (hard) squashes such as **Butternut, Acorn** or **Spaghetti**.



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.



LETTUCE Supplies of **Iceberg** and **Green Leaf Lettuce** have lightened, due to cooler weather and the beginning of field transition on the West Coast to points south. Quality is fair, with some insect activity and lighter case weights reported. Consider **Romaine** or **pre-cut product** for optimal cost and quality.



GREEN ONIONS – Wet weather in Mexico, which is the primary growing area for **Green Onions**, has slowed harvesting and caused a small supply gap. Pricing is higher than normal, and quality is fair, with decay and short shelf life reported.



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

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



Onions: The new crop of Yellow and Red Onions are in, with excellent quality and pricing on all sizes.



Asparagus: Pencil and Standard sized Asparagus are great quality, and much lower pricing than larger sizes.



Kale: Quality is excellent on all Green and Tuscan Kale, with good color and full bunches.



Colored Potatoes: Yellow, Purple, Red and Fingerling Potatoes are all in season, with great quality reported.



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

Apples: All varieties are being harvested out of the major growing areas: Washington, Michigan and New York and more. The perfect autumn hand fruit!

Pears: Bartlett, Bosc and Red Pears are approaching peak harvest out of Washington and California. Quality is excellent.

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

Squash: Autumn Squash is beginning to be harvested throughout the country. Butternut and Acorn are the most available—ask your distributor for recommendations!

Weather Update

California: Temperatures are cooling across all growing regions as autumn begins.

Mexico: Unseasonably cool temperatures are following Hurricane Rosa's exit this week. Mostly dry conditions are expected, and another Hurricane (Sergio) is being monitored off the coast of Baja.

Southeastern U.S. : Mostly dry conditions and unseasonably hot temperatures.

 APPLES	Quality and pricing are good
 ASPARAGUS	Quality and pricing are good, with Pencil and Standard the best buys.
 AVOCADO	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BELL PEPPERS	Quality and pricing are 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 is good, pricing is higher
 CARROTS	Quality and pricing are good
 CAULIFLOWER	Quality and pricing are good
 CELERY	Quality and pricing are good
 CITRUS (LEMONS)	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 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 is good, pricing is fair
 GARLIC	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 GRAPES (GREEN)	Quality and pricing are good
 GRAPES (RED)	Quality and pricing are good
 GREEN ONIONS	Quality and pricing are good
 LETTUCE ICEBERG	Quality is fair, pricing is higher
 LETTUCE LEAF	Quality is good, pricing is higher on Green Leaf
 MELON (CANTALOUPE)	Quality is good, pricing is fair
 MELON (HONEYDEW)	Quality is good, pricing is fair
 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 Zucchini
 TOMATOES	Quality is fair and pricing is higher on Grapes, Cherries and Romas