



WEATHER UPDATE

Yuma - Sunny to partly cloudy with highs in the 70s and lows in the 50s for the upcoming week. **Oxnard** - Sunny to partly cloudy for the upcoming week with highs in the 60s and lows in the 50s. **Mexico (Culiacan)**- Sunny to partly cloudy; highs in the 80s and lows in the 50s. **Florida, Southern**– Partly cloudy with highs in the 70s and lows in the 60s. **Idaho** - Mostly sunny skies next week with highs in the low 40s and lows in the teens; Winter is coming!

TRANSPORTATION

The National Diesel Average has been recorded at \$3.317 down \$0.021 a gal from last week and up **\$0.498** gal from last year. NPC continues to monitor and track diesel fuel averages by state as well as reported truckload freight rates on a weekly basis. **Transportation continues to work through its most significant structural changes in years in regards to new laws and regulations stressing available truck volume and controlling drivers. Trucks are short in CO, OR, ID, NE, WA, & WI. Be sure you have freight locked up, Christmas tree season is here!**

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MARKET ALERT

Avocados (EXTREME)	Cauliflower
Tomatoes (EXTREME)	Iceberg
Peppers	Romaine
Sugar Snap Peas	Green Onions
Green Beans	Cilantro
Cabbage	Broccoli
	Melons

MARKET OUTLOOK



Apples



Washington is down on volumes with Reds, Golds and Fujis and considerably down on Galas (15% down) and an amazing 30% down on gr smiths. Volume will be confirmed as the State continue to harvest in the Month of October. Reds and Golds are down significant due to growers cutting their orchards down to replant Honneys, Pinks, Organics, Jazz, Lady Alice, etc. Galas and Gr Smiths - due to such a large crop last season, trees did not respond back - some will say these apples are alternate bearing. Quality of the new Crop is very good with size profile 2 to 3 sizes larger than last year. (small sizes will be limited).

Asparagus



There is good volume and quality coming out of Peru. Mexico is tight due to the weather issues.

MARKET ALERT



Avocados



According to suppliers, harvest and exportation will take at least 2 weeks to fill the pipeline once resumed. A small amount of picking is being done and will cross to the U.S, this would not be near enough to fill inventory or to get avocados in all locations. We will continue to monitor the situation and update you as we have information. **Heads up Monday is MX Holiday (Revolution Day) and Thursday US Thanksgiving. Certainly not a perfect week to try build up inventories.** Harvest started Wednesday morning. This situation is on its way to stabilizing depending on manifests, final destination and specs with something consistent nationally estimated around the 23rd. We will continue to keep you updated on this as often as information is available.



Bananas



Banana volumes are expected to be sufficient with high quality fruit coming into the market. The conditions should continue to be great as no real issues with production are predicted for the remainder of the year.



Berries



Blueberries: Similar updates to last week. Pricing is steady to lower. Markets are extremely active with multiple growing areas in play. Peruvian is still the best volumes and the lowest costing. Overall quality is good to very good. Quality being reported good out of Chile. Shipments mostly coming out of the North where temps are more favorable. Mexico blues, quality good and quality is firm. Mexico and Argentina are pushing to compete in the market but freight is still a challenge. **Blackberries:** Mexico quality reporting fair to good but improving. Volumes are improving week by week. **Raspberries:** Quality being reported fair to good. Supplies are heavy out of Central MX and California next week. Prices are steady.

MARKET OUTLOOK

Broccoli



MARKET ALERT

QUALITY



SUPPLY



Broccoli supplies are limited this week. There is a high demand for Broccoli this week. Quality is reported as good quality, with the transition from Salinas to Yuma AZ, supplies cannot keep up with the demand. This has created stronger markets and prices have increased.

Brussels Sprouts



QUALITY



SUPPLY



Brussel sprout production is about normal. There is a higher demand for Brussel Sprouts due to the Holidays. Good quality is reported at multiple growers, prices are higher this week due to the higher demand of brussels sprouts. Expect higher prices for the next few weeks.

Cauliflower



MARKET ALERT

QUALITY



SUPPLY



Supplies are very limited this week. With production finishing up in Salinas and with the transition from Salinas to Yuma AZ, markets are much higher this week. There is also an increased demand for Cauliflower due to the Holidays. Expect markets to maintain strong for the next few weeks.

Cantaloupes



MARKET ALERT

QUALITY



SUPPLY



Cantaloupes from Guatemala have started with arrivals into Florida in a very small way. Cooler weather has also affected our own growing regions which is causing some spacing in harvesting. This is causing a **demand exceeds supply** scenario. Initial arrivals today showed very good quality with sizing mostly in regular cartons (9/12s) with no jumbos being packed during the first few passes. Internal quality is showing solid brix levels in the range of 11-15%.

Carrots



QUALITY



SUPPLY



Overall market is somewhat limited as California is the only growing region currently. Our yields and quality are solid and should remain that way. Colorado and Canada should be starting soon which will increase the overall supply in the market. Once they will start shipping product we will have a better idea of what their crop looks like and what overall market conditions will be.

Celery



QUALITY



SUPPLY



Celery supplies a little lower this week for the time of the year. There is a higher demand for Celery this week, with Salinas finishing up and production moving to Oxnard CA prices have increased. Good quality is reported from Oxnard growing region. With the Holiday approaching expect the Celery market to maintain high for next week.

Corn



QUALITY



SUPPLY



Corn has improved again slightly with FL coming on, prices are down, supply improved but market is still up in the west. Will still take a little time to get back to normal but were on our way.

MARKET OUTLOOK



Cucumbers



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

With both south and central FL in production, cucumber supply and quality is a bright spot in the East this week. Look for the offshore deal to start in a very light way next week as well. In the West, Baja is wrapping things up quickly. But, despite slowing due to cooler weather, Mainland Mexico continues to have consistent supply and good quality to fill Western demand.

Eggplant



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Demand is strong for eggs, but there seems to be enough fruit still in GA and FL to meet demand. GA's quality is not the greatest as these crops saw their share of weather during the growing cycle. Florida's fruit is much nicer so far but volumes are still on the light side. The CA desert is still providing good volume on eggplant while Mexico's producers are slow to ramp up due to the cold.

Grapes



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Overall movement is good but need to keep pace with overall crop volume. Green Seedless: Autumn King, Condition is good. We will keep an eye on the fruit as we get towards Dec. Current movement is steady. Black Seedless: Autumn Royal, Quality and condition are good. Movement has been steady. Red Globes: market steady but volume will not last into the new year.

MARKET ALERT

Green Beans



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

There are small pockets of bean production remaining in GA and in several areas in FL but not nearly enough to cover holiday demand. Growers are experiencing light yields due to rainy weather in the early part of the growing cycle. Florida numbers will start to improve next week as growers move past the lighter-yielding plantings and into new fields. In the West, the Coachella Valley, which could go another 7-10 days, is the main source of supply. Mainland Mexico is finally underway with very limited volume so far. Crossings and volume will increase over the next few weeks as more growers begin

Herbs



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Quality and supply is looking good across the board. Sage of course is in very high demand and pricing is up.

MARKET ALERT

Honeydews



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Domestic honeydews are facing the same challenges as the cantaloupe but Mexican dewes are now also being affected which has caused a significant decrease in production the past five days. Anticipate this market to remain very strong the next 2-3 weeks with the primary sizing being larger fruit.

MARKET OUTLOOK



Iceberg



MARKET ALERT

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Iceberg availability is lower this week. With Salinas and Huron finishing with production and the transition to Yuma AZ, markets are strong this week. We are expected to be harvesting lettuce from Yuma on Monday. Prices are expected to stay strong through the Holiday. Good quality is reported at multiple growers.

Kale



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Kale supplies remain abundant with little issues. The market is steady. Quality is good with minimal yellowing, little dehydration, and dark green color.

Leaf



MARKET ALERT

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Romaine - Romaine lettuce production is almost non-existent. With Salinas ending the Romaine season and Yuma starting late, we have created a gap in supplies. Demand is also extremely high at the moment. We are also encountering some quality issues, expect quality to be fair at best, we are expecting high prices through the Holidays. Expect markets to remain strong the next few weeks. Green Leaf/Red Leaf and Boston/Butter Lettuce- Salinas finishing production and the transition to Yuma AZ, supplies are limited this week. This has caused growers to increase prices due to lower production available. Expect for quality to be fair at best, supplies will be lower than expected through the Holidays. Market will continue to stay strong.

Tender Leaf



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Arugula: Quality is good, but supplies are light as production ends this week. They will improve once we start in the desert next week. **Cilantro:** Supplies fair and quality is improving. **Kale Blends:** Quality and supplies are fair on kale. **Parsley:** Parsley quality and supply are good. **Spinach:** Quality is good, but supplies are light through transition week. **Spring Mix:** Quality is good, but supplies are light through transition week.

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Lemons & Limes



District 3 - which is the Coachella/Palm Springs area this area is only about 30% picked – Due to the high summer temps fruit was small showing to be heavy to 165/200s. Growers left this fruit on the tree to size up and now they are finding a major labor shortage in this area. There is talk about starting to increase production in this area starting next week but with the Holiday next week it may not be possible. *District 1* – which is the Central part of California, has started in a small way - Most growers including us are ring picking to get things started. This fruit is very green and taking 6-7 days to gain color, so it is a slow go right now. This long de-greening time is really creating challenges to forecast orders right now. **Limes**—Limes are in good supply with a steady market.



MARKET OUTLOOK



Onions



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Nothing has changed here! The market has been pretty stable over the last week. It is equally as cheap as the previous two weeks. The only thing that's changing is the shift as the retailer's demand comes in for the holidays. Seeing good quality and supply across the board. Trucks are tight!

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Oranges



Season is off to a decent start. Most shippers are gassing less and less daily and quality is very good. Crop right now is peaking on 113s/88s and 72s. We are getting limited 56's and but doing everything we can to keep some big fruit coming in. We are hopeful that California will see some much-needed rain as we move into December which will help this fruit to size up.

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Pears



D'anjou pears are peaking on 90's and larger. Moderate supplies on 100/110's has the market steady. 120s and smaller are light with a firm market. Bosc pears have a steady market with supplies winding down for the season. Red pears are tight but should last till May. Quality is good on all pears.

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

MARKET ALERT

Peppers, Bell



Bell peppers are extremely short throughout the country this week. GA is still shipping what they can until frost, but volume and quality were significantly affected by Michael. Florida has a few bits and pieces to offer from both the central and southern parts of the state but volume is minimal. With South FL still a month out from any significant volumes and CA's light desert season, the pepper deal could be a rocky ride until Mexico gets into full production in December or January. Northern MX hit the bells hard with the freeze, total losses.

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

MARKET ALERT

Peppers, Jalapenos



Not much has changed here beside the freeze in MX making things worse. There's not a whole lot of chili peppers in the East. Georgia is hit and miss on availability and shippers may not have the full line available. Plant City has just gotten started in a light way with mostly jalapenos. They should begin to see more varieties and better volumes next week. South Florida also expects to begin seeing a few chilies next week as well. The Western chili pepper market continue to be hot! Quality out of Mexico has been hit and miss due to prior rain activity. Baja is making its last run for November and will bow out right around the first or second week of December. Mainland Mexico is also going, primarily out of Sonora. With Esquinapa getting wiped out, the hot pepper market should stay strong through the rest of the month.

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Pineapples



Good volumes are predicted for November as sizing has, and will continue to improve on larger counts. We do expect good volumes for the remainder of the year.

MARKET OUTLOOK



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Potatoes



The market remains steady for the most part across all sizes and grades on norkotahs with burbanks about a buck up. Packers shipped 133,000 cwt more fresh potatoes during October than they did a year earlier. However, the increase was due to an extra business day in October this year. The daily shipping pace fell 4.2% short of 2017 movement. Trucks are tight, Christmas tree season is here, lock up that freight!

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Squash



Several weeks of super-low market prices caused a number of FL and GA growers to walk away from fields after just one or two picks, which has quickly changed the squash supply situation in the East. Depressed markets also deterred growers from coming back with later plantings, so we could see supply become shorter as we move through the next month. Quality is rough on yellow, since most harvests are from older fields now. Zucchini quality is better. As for the West, Mainland Mexico farms are seeing less fruit due to previous weather and virus issues in the fields. However, we do expect acreage to start soon from newer growing areas further south.

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Strawberries



Availability is tightening up due to weather and growing area transitions. Typical of this time of year. Prices are UP and contracts paying dividends. Harvesting in CA has been hampered with rains Wednesday through Friday. Distributors have been highly encouraged to get pre-orders in to stay covered on orders 100%. The Wild fires are also causing negative impact on the berries and harvesting. To those that have lost loved ones, homes, animals and belongings, our thoughts and prayers are with you. Some reports of "smoky" tasting strawberries in recent days. Quality is based on loading areas. Oxnard reporting some soft shoulders and occasional bruising average counts of 22-24. Santa Maria growers reporting a little larger fruit depending on the variety. Portolas running 22-24ct and Monterey 18-20ct with some fields 24-26ct. More volume coming over each week from Mexico easing supplies. Mexico looking very strong this year. Though currently, smaller sizing coming across 24-26ct. Florida starting up late November- first week of December depending on grower. Stem berries are extremely difficult due to the smaller size conditions. Expect another couple of weeks to see good Stem sizes again.

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

MARKET ALERT

Tomatoes



Most romas generally froze. Could be until mid to late December before new area of Mexico comes on. Round markets are stronger out of Florida and Texas. Supplies in both areas are super lite and heavier demand as we approach the Thanksgiving Holiday. A lot of MX crops were lost due to the freezing temperatures which is a huge hit. Florida will also be getting some colder temps by the end of this week and it will slow downsizing and production. Roma markets have also increased this week in both Florida and Texas due to the Holiday push. Supplies are also very very lite and heavy demand. Just like the Rounds markets they will probably continue to increase after the holiday due to the freezing temps in Mexico and the cooler weather in Florida. Grape market continue to increase this week out East with fairly lite supplies and good demand. Cherry markets have also increased this week out East with lite supplies and better demand. There is no market out West has there is insufficient supplies to establish one. These pics are from the Northern States of Coahuila , Durango and Zacatecas.





MARKET OUTLOOK

MARKET ALERT

Onions Green - Green Onion production is finally showing signs of life and actually improving. More Green Onions cross the border from Mexico into the US. With supplies still not at where they should be prices are higher than normal. We expect the markets to maintain strong through the Holiday. We should see some relief the next few weeks.

Sugar Snap Peas—Supply is almost non-existent, Market prices are strong. Look to remain tight for a couple of weeks affecting thanksgiving. Possible pro rates.

Cilantro - Cilantro production is slowly improving. There is a high demand for Cilantro that is keeping prices returning to normal. Good quality is been reported at multiple growers. Expect markets to remain steady until next few weeks.

Cabbage - The east is very very short with additional rains. Cabbage production is lower this week. Production is finished in Salinas, There is product from Oxnard and waiting for the New Region to start in Yuma AZ. There is good quality been reported, supplies will be lower through the Holidays and prices will be slightly higher.

Retail avocado displays to look different for a while

“Mexican [avocado](#) shipments will be crossing into the U.S. in earnest Nov. 17, after a late-October growers strike all but dried up the supply chain to retailers and foodservice operators in the U.S.

But it will likely by several weeks past that before the supply chain starts to normalize.

[APEAM](#), the group that represents growers and packers of avocados for export markets, announced an agreement with growers on Nov. 14. The strike lasted more than two weeks, causing an estimated deficit of 73 million pounds of exports to the U.S., according to Ramon Paz, spokesman for APEAM, which represents exporting packers of avocados in Michoacan. However, there still is 30 weeks before the harvest ends in July, and shipments might catch up to previous estimates, he said.

“The first avocados will reach the border this weekend,” Rob Wedin, vice president of sales and marketing for Calavo Growers Inc., Santa Paula, Calif. said Nov. 14. “Many, many more will be needed to get supplies back to normal.

“This will take weeks,” Wedin said. “Many avocados will not be ripened until after Thanksgiving.”

If you have any specific questions or concerns on any commodities not mentioned in this report, please feel free to reach out to dforsythe@nproduce.com and we will be happy to give you those current market conditions. Also look for our Spanish version that will be released on Monday and our Midweek Update released every Wednesday. Have a great week!
Keeping You Informed,



Your Dedicated NPC, LLC Staff