



WEATHER UPDATE

Salinas— Mostly sunny next week with highs in the mid-70s and lows in the lower 40s. **Oxnard**— Sunny to partly cloudy next week with highs in the mid-70s and lows in the 50s. **Mexico (Culiacan)**— Sunny to partly cloudy next week. Highs in the mid-90s and lows in the 60s. **Florida, Southern**— Sunny to partly cloudy next week with chances of scattered thunderstorms this weekend into Monday. Highs will be in the upper 80s and lows in the 70s. **Idaho**— Sunny to partly cloudy next week. Highs in the 40s and lows in the single digits.

TRANSPORTATION

The National Diesel Average has been recorded at \$3.050 down \$0.001 a gal from last week and down \$0.288 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 in good supply in most of the country, however there is slight shortages in Eastern North Carolina.**

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MARKET ALERT

BLACKBERRIES
BROCCOLI
CILANTRO
CAULIFLOWER
GARLIC
GREEN BEANS
ICEBERG LETTUCE
MELONS- CANTALOUPE & HONEYDEW
MUSHROOMS
POTATOES
ROMAINE / HEARTS
SNAP & SNOW PEAS
STRAWBERRIES
TOMATOES

MARKET OUTLOOK



Apples



The market is steady this week. New crop Washington MFC Gala, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, and Golden Delicious Apples are available. New crop Washington Fuji stocks are limited. Quality is excellent.

Asparagus



The asparagus market is steady this week. Good supplies continue out of Peru & Mexico. Quality is good.

Avocados



Markets remain steady for the most part. There is some slight strength, as rain over the last few days has slowed down the harvest. Smaller sizes continue to be abundant & the market gap between 48's & 60's remains steady. The packhouses are starting to show a higher percentage of #2 fruit, but overall the crop remains very clean. Markets should remain relatively steady, with some strengthening on smaller sizes, over the next few weeks.

Bananas



The banana markets remain steady with good supplies and good quality. Plantains remain limited this week. Expect market to remain steady going into next week.

MARKET ALERT



Berries



MARKET ALERT: Blackberries: Tight supplies and quality challenges continue. Rains in South America continue and have impacted supplies and quality. Growers are not expecting production to recover for the next 2 to 4 weeks.

Blueberries: The market is holding steady. Supplies and quality are good at this time. Supplies are coming out of Mexico, Peru and Argentina.

Raspberries: The raspberry market is steady. Product out of Mexico is increasing and quality is improving.

MARKET OUTLOOK

MARKET ALERT

Broccoli



Supplies continue to be very limited this week. Fair to good quality is being reported. The current warmer weather that should bring some extra volume. Growers are still trying to work through hollow core & Pin Rot. This has caused low yields at the time of harvest. Prices are escalated this week. Growers are not pro rating orders on crowns this week. They are holding distributors to weekly averages. **Florets are being pro-rated depending on the grower from 20% – 50%.**

Brussels Sprouts



The sprout market continues to remain steady this week. Good supplies and fair quality are being reported. The market is expected to remain steady going into next week.

MARKET ALERT

Cauliflower



Supplies continue to be extremely limited this week. Processors are the ones impacted the most. With this short heatwave, growers are anticipating slightly more volume coming in for next week. Quality is being reported as fair, growers are optimistic we will see some improvement in supplies next week.

MARKET ALERT

Cantaloupes



CA melon production is quickly coming to an end with only a few fields remaining to be harvested over the next 7-10 days. AZ growers are still struggling after rain/hail hit their fields four weeks ago that caused a lot more damage than was originally let on. Production is very low and is close to being in a demand exceeds supply situation with minimal availability. Sizing that is coming out is mostly 12/15s with few large melons being produced as fields are very weak. We anticipate this shortage to remain at least another two weeks out of the desert.

Carrots



With cooler temperatures Bakersfield carrots are improving quality. Supply is steady.

Celery



Celery supplies are lighter this week out of Salinas. Quality is being reported as good by multiple growers. Expect market to be steady to higher next week.

Corn



Like last week, production and quality out of Georgia is steadily increasing. Growers are reporting improved quality daily. This is putting downward pressure on pricing. Production out of the West is steady.

MARKET OUTLOOK



Cucumbers



Supplies out of Mexico are running tighter than usual. Production from the East is coming out of Georgia with Florida's harvesting just around the corner. Quality is being reported as average.

Eggplant



Nothing exciting to report with eggplants. Steady supplies are coming out of Florida and Mexico at this time. The market is expected to remain steady.

Grapes



Overall market is steady with a few bad arrivals starting to pop up on weaker fruit. Red Seedless, Scarlet Royal and Allison's are plentiful. Green Seedless, Autumn King still getting harvested with most growers ending harvest the first two weeks of November, market will continue to rise into November.

MARKET ALERT

Green Beans



GA's low yields & production levels are gradually beginning to pick up as growers move past the plantings that were impacted by heat. Should continue to see better volume from GA in the next week or so. It's looking like FL beans will begin during the 1st week of November. In the West, CA's production is dwindling but we are seeing better numbers out of Baja now. With the CA desert on tap to start Nov 4th & Nogales shippers coming into play in mid-November, we hope for a smooth holiday season.

MARKET ALERT

Herbs



Chervil & thyme remain limited this week due to quality issues. All other herbs are expected to remain steady with good quality.

MARKET ALERT: Cilantro – Supplies are limited this week, markets are escalated. The Salinas season is coming to an end. The next region will be Oxnard & down to Yuma AZ. Expect markets to be limited for the next few weeks.

MARKET ALERT

Honeydews



Honeydew supply has been even shorter than cantaloupe as fewer domestic plantings were done in the Fall as Mexican crossings are generally high. That is not the case this year as few honeydews were planted in Mexico after poor market performances the past three years forced growers to plant alternate crops. The northern growing region of Mexico was also hit by the same rains that affected the desert production which has created an imperfect storm with regards to availability.

MARKET OUTLOOK

MARKET ALERT

QUALITY



SUPPLY



Iceberg



Supplies have improved this week. Salinas's valley will be done for the season this weekend. Some growers are reporting starting in Huron CA as soon as this Friday. Growers are anticipating better supplies next week along with quality and weights to improve. Prices will continue to remain escalated this week. **Growers are filling in orders for whole case lettuce heads, no pro rates or shorts. Chopped lettuce & salad blends are being pro-rating 20%-50% depending on the availability the day of loading.**

QUALITY



SUPPLY



Kale



The kale market remains steady this week. Seeing good volume with good quality which has been reported by multiple growers. Expect the market to remain steady going into next week.

MARKET ALERT

QUALITY



SUPPLY



Leaf



MARKET ALERT- Romaine: Supplies continue to be extremely limited this week. Growers are anticipating some relief next week. Chopped romaine & hearts are also very limit. Prices are escalated & have reached our caps on contracts. **Growers are reporting 25% pro rate on chopped romaine orders depending on the availability the day of loading. (Alert includes romaine hearts, chopped romaine, & salad blends)**

Green Leaf/ Red Leaf/ Butter (Boston) Lettuce: Supplies are light on the leaf lettuce this week. Quality is being reported as fair. Still reports of some fringe/ wind burn on the outer leaves. The markets are expected to be steady to higher going into next week.

QUALITY



SUPPLY



Tender Leaf



Supplies on tender leaf is still a bit tight this week. The heat will have an impact on production & quality. Production will start transiting to the Yuma areas around the middle of November. As you know there's always some interruptions in production during transitions as growers move production equipment to the new production areas. Giving your growers a little extra order lead time for additional planning will help with order fill rates.

Lemons & Limes



LIMES: The lime market has finally settled for the most part. Seeing better volume on larger fruit. USDA is finally even quoting 110s again, & prices are down. 200s are back up a bit this week but everything is back below \$25 FOB. Quality is being reported as fair to good.

LEMONS: Lemons are steady this week but creeping higher. There is a large spread between choice & fancy, sometimes \$7 or so. Smaller fruit remains with higher availability, but nothing is extremely tight. No quality issues have been reported.

MARKET OUTLOOK



QUALITY



SUPPLY



Onions



The onion market remains steady from last week. Good supplies and demand. There is some concern similar to potatoes here in regard to the recent weather events. They did have to stop harvest since the onions sit on top of the ground & can't be harvested or stored in damp/rainy conditions. They are also estimating about a month's loss & have slowed their production as well. This is early information & there will be more to come on this. At this time markets remain stable & competitive.

Onions, Green



QUALITY



SUPPLY



Similar to last week the green onion market remains steady. Seeing good supplies with good demand. Quality is good. Expect the markets to remain steady going into next week.

Oranges



QUALITY



SUPPLY



Oranges remain competitive and promotable. \$1-2 spread between fancy and choice, everything is close to or under \$20 fob, bigger fruit in a better spot than the small stuff. Valencias should start to wind down over the next few weeks and quality is only fair. CA navels should start in November.

Pears



QUALITY



SUPPLY



Barts are now available with sizes peaking on 100/110/120ct. California Anjou's are still available - there will be no gap between CA and New Crop. New crop Washington D'Anjou harvesting will begin in September. Quality is excellent.

QUALITY



SUPPLY



Peppers, Bell



The green pepper market is steady out of the East but seeing some strength out of the West. Supplies out of Mexico, Georgia and Florida will continue to increase over the weeks to come. Red peppers are showing some pricing strength. Production out of Canada is less than forecasted. Yellow peppers are crossing out of Mexico.

Peppers, Chili



QUALITY



SUPPLY



The chili pepper market remains steady this week. Good supplies continue out of Mexico and California. Jalapeno peppers out of MX & CA are mostly medium to large sizes. No quality issues have been reported. Expect market to remain steady going into next week.

MARKET OUTLOOK



Pineapples



The pineapple market remains steady with good availability along with good quality. Sizing will be trending large for the next 4-8 weeks.



Potatoes



EXTREME ALERT: During the week of October the 7th, most of you are aware that Idaho experienced an extended stretch of freezing temps that had a significant impact on our crop and those of our grower partners. Production is being cut across the board as estimates coming in are about a 20% crop loss, on a crop already with low yields and minimal size. Markets are hitting \$20 fob, grower shippers are reviewing programs, and it's going to take everyone working together to get through this. Most important task at hand is ensuring supply through next August. If they keep shipping at current rate there is no way, we'd make it into summer. By reducing production now, they will be trying to stretch what they have. There will be more to come on this in the coming days & weeks. This bad of a situation hasn't occurred since 1985. Flexibility on sizing & regionality may come into play to ensure potatoes stay on the table year round.

Squash



The market is trending slightly lower this week on soft squash. Production is coming out of Mexico, Baja, Georgia, and Florida. GA and SC are winding down on squash. Volume has been declining & could even more quickly as cool temperatures move into these areas in the next few days. Quality out of the east is mostly good and great out of the west. Look for more volume to pick up over the next 5-7 day as more growers get started.

Strawberries



CA is experiencing high temps as well as high winds this week. This will impact production & quality for the next week or 2. Growers are expecting November to be very challenging in respect to supplies. Florida's production has been delayed due to the excessive rain and expected to start late November or early December. This will put pressure on California's availability & costing.

Tomatoes



Supplies were tight last week. They're even tighter this week. Prices are escalated and have reached our contract caps in some cases. The season is ending in California and Mexico. Production out of the East is lower than expected. We're getting reports that Roma's out of the East being extremely tight. Product out of the West is running tight too. Expect higher pricing for the next few weeks.



MARKET OUTLOOK

MARKET ALERT: GARLIC-Domestic garlic yields are drastically down due to a % of plants that did not develop. Quality issues reported due to weather. Chinese garlic is becoming very limited due to a US custom fees & higher tariffs, and lower yields in their crop. Quality is good. Expect higher markets.

MARKET ALERT

MARKET ALERT: MUSHROOMS- Production levels have been lowered due to recent poor compost quality. This has led to fill rates around 75% for select growers in the industry. Growers are working diligently to make corrections in the growing process. This production could be affected for at least two weeks.

MARKET ALERT: SNOW & SUGAR SNAP PEAS - Volumes are extremely limited due to the consistent battle with rain in the growing regions. Expect 25% pro-rates. Market are steadily rising. Expect escalated pricing.

Researchers develop rapid TR4 detection test

October 24 , 2019 Researchers have developed a new test to rapidly detect banana disease Fusarium Wilt Tropical Race 4 (TR4).

A research team led by Professor Gert Kema at Wageningen University & Research (WUR) came up with the process. It was recently tested in Colombia, where authorities confirmed TR4 was present in early August.

The WUR test is faster and more practical than laboratory tests. It allows the industry to take immediate measures once suspect plants test positive for the fungus in order to prevent further spreading.

Importance of rapid TR4 detection

In technical terms, the test is a "Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification assay". Abbreviated as LAMP, it involves taking a piece of tissue to isolate DNA and placing it into the shoe-box sized testing device.

When it was trialed in Colombia, it swiftly tested positive. As well as diagnosis more quickly, the test combines multiple methods of previous testing to make the process more efficient. It has never previously been possible to diagnose TR4 this quickly, which marks an "important step" for banana growers. Further, the team noted that the main benefit of the LAMP test is its flexibility in the field. "The main benefit of the new LAMP test is that it has a handy size and can be used in the field," Kema said. "It is no longer necessary to employ a laboratory to analyze the samples. In principle, any company active in banana farming can purchase the device, train its employees and deploy it immediately."

Fast test results mean that growers can establish quarantine measures within an hour of testing, he added. WUR's research team held training sessions with groups in Colombia and the Philippines to measure if the test was simple enough to perform. Their findings revealed that the test is "fast and easy" to do.

TR4 has been disastrous, frequently destroying entire banana plantations around the world.

SOURCE: https://www.freshfruitportal.com/news/2019/10/24/researchers-develop-faster-tr4-detection-test/?pk_campaign=912e2c0f71&pk_source=mailchimp&pk_medium=email&pk_content=334541&pk_cid=c62859d010&utm_campaign=912e2c

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. Have a great week!

Your Dedicated NPC, LLC Staff