



WEATHER UPDATE

Salinas - Sunny for the upcoming week with highs in the low 70s and lows in the 40s. **Oxnard** - Sunny for the upcoming week with highs in the 70s and lows in the 50s. **Mexico (Culiacan)**- Sunny to partly cloudy; highs in the 90s and lows in the 60s. **Florida, Southern**– Sunny Thunderstorms and partly cloudy with highs in the 80s and lows in the 60s. **Idaho** - Storms clear up early next week to partly cloudy skies with highs in the 40s and lows in the 20s.

TRANSPORTATION

The National Diesel Average has been recorded at \$3.355 down \$0.025 a gal from last week and up **\$0.626** 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 & WA and in adequate supply nationally.**

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MARKET ALERT

Corn
Cabbage
Avocados
Green Beans
Tomatoes
Peppers
Lettuce & Leaf Items
Sugar Snap Peas
Green Onions

MARKET OUTLOOK



Apples



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

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



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Prices steady, but should increase after next week in preparation for Thanksgiving. Mexico, good volume, and Quality.

MARKET ALERT

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Arrivals for the week were at 38.6 million pounds. Mexico's harvest will account for 90% of the industry's weekly arrivals moving forward. The weather forecast for the state of Michoacán continues to call for disperse thunderstorms. There is a grower strike in Mexico. Roads to and from groves as well as highways to the USA are blocked. Avocados are not moving and in some instances being confiscated. Police are not responding to road blocks and there hasn't been resolution in meetings. Day of the dead is also occurring with a stop in harvest. We will keep you posted. There are multiple suppliers whom have enacted Force Majeure however NPC partners are stepping up to the plate. We will keep everyone posted as the situation changes. Opening spec on sizes and grades will help to ensure supply but If picking does not resume starting next week we can start facing supply shortages / prorates.

Avocados



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

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.

Bananas



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Berries



Blueberries: Overall quality is good to very good. Supplies are lighter due to the transitions in growing areas with some later starts. Prices are up, typical for this time of year. Mostly Peruvian. But Uruguay and Argentina starting up soon. Mexico has started in a small way. **Blackberries:** Quality being reported fair to good. Markets are extremely active. Supply is quite short as production as slowed down and looks to remain tight through November. Mexico ramping up and starts back up in another week or so. **Raspberries:** Quality being reported mostly fair to good. Supplies are peaking out of Central MX and California next week. Prices are steady to higher.

MARKET OUTLOOK

Broccoli



Broccoli Forecast numbers are lower than expected. Market supplies are not stable, prices are higher this week. With the transition around the corner expect markets to fluctuate.

Brussels Sprouts



Forecast on Brussel sprout sprouts will maintain steady. Quality is still good, expect market conditions to be unstable with the upcoming transition.

Cauliflower



Supplies are good this week, the demand for Cauliflower is high. Cold weather is affecting sizing, better supplies on small Cauliflower. With the transition coming up expect some changes to available supplies and prices.

Cantaloupes



Rains from earlier this month in Arizona have really pushed the sizing into larger fruit and have negatively affected yields. 6Js and 9Js are the predominant sizing currently. There is expected to be limited production over the next few weeks from Central AZ and Imperial Valley. Quality out of this region continues to be fair to good due to the poor weather that hit this fruit during the growing cycle.

Carrots



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



The forecast for Celery supplies is lower than expected, with the Salinas Valley finishing up and Harvest moving to Oxnard and the Desert region expect higher prices. There is also a huge demand for Celery with the holidays approach

MARKET ALERT

Corn



Georgia started harvesting right before the hurricane, but the hurricane went right through the growing area. A lot of corn that can be found in Georgia is percentage corn with about 85% fill. Florida has started picking in a lighter way and they have fancy corn available. The market is still on the higher side. Available out of CA as well but again, prices remain up. Texas has rain damage and supplies almost non-existent. When FL picks up next week things should improve.

MARKET OUTLOOK



Cucumbers



The cucumber market is experiencing some weakness on supers while it is firmer on selects and cartons due to limited availability. Mexico's cucumber production is transitioning from Baja, where a few growers will continue until December, and the Mainland where production is increasing. As more growers get going in Sinaloa, we should see good supply through November. Other than light coloring at the beginning of the Mainland crop, quality has been very nice. The East is making the transition to FL sourcing where production will be on the light side until late November/early December. GA farms are winding down quickly, but are still shipping some fruit. Quality is rough on what remains in GA, but FL's new crop cukes have been very nice so far.

Eggplant



With GA and FL both in production, eggplant availability in the East is adequate. Plant City and South FL's fruit has the quality edge on GA, since many GA farms are dealing with the after-effects of the recent hurricane. The West will continue to see good supply out of the CA desert for another 3 weeks, which will bridge the transition to Mainland Mexico. Look for Mexico's eggplant volumes to become strong soon, as more growers are adding to the mix.

Grapes



Currently we are shipping Scarlet Royal and Alison varieties of red seedless grapes. Pricing should remain steady through November. Green pricing is expected to inch up as the availability of Autumn Kings will become less and less towards mid November. Much like greens, the black seedless grapes, Autumn Royal, will inch up through mid November.

MARKET ALERT

Green Beans



Bean supply is extremely tight this week. Western production is transitioning to the CA desert, where volumes are still limited. The East is impatiently waiting for the lake area in FL to get up and running in a significant way to help ease the situation.

Herbs



Quality and supply is looking good across the board



Honeydews



Honeydew production varies in this region as some growers do not even bother growing dewes because of the influx of Mexican production this time of year. Good volume is currently crossing through Nogales with mostly big fruit (4/5s) with some 6s. Smaller fruit is very scarce in AZ.

MARKET OUTLOOK



Iceberg



MARKET ALERT

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Production is lower with the Salinas regions finishing up. Supplies are limited, new harvest in the Yuma area is not ready until next week. The high demand for Iceberg has created a huge increase in prices. We are hoping this improves in the next few weeks.

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 

Forecast for Romaine is lower than expected. Salinas is finishing up and we are moving to the Yuma growing region next week. Market will not be stable for the next few weeks, we are expecting higher prices for the next few weeks and supply is down due to the transition timetables. Green leaf supplies are lower than previous weeks, prices will be a little higher. Butter lettuce: supplies are good at the moment, expect for leafy green items to be unstable with supplies and prices changing weekly. This is due to the transition down to the Yuma area.

Tender Leaf



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Arugula: Quality is fair, with possible mildew due to recent rain, followed by warm days. Product is available. **Cilantro:** Supplies are good and quality is fair. **Kale Blends:** Quality and supplies are fair for kale. **Parsley:** Parsley quality and supplies are good. **Spinach:** Quality is fair, with possible mildew. Product is readily available. **Spring Mix:** Quality is fair, but supplies are good.

MARKET ALERT

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Lemons & Limes



California Lemons now picking in D1 (Central CA). Size picking 140's and larger for retail and allowing some of the smaller sized fruit to grow. Fruit that is picked right now is requiring gas to color up but they are coloring up nicely. Pricing is still up. This year's crop out of dist. 1 will take us into May, and the crop volume is of normal size and should have a descent run of size. The Mexico crop is basically done for the season. **Limes**—Limes are in good supply with a steady market.



MARKET OUTLOOK



Onions



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.

Oranges



California Citrus Finishing up the last of our **Valencia oranges** and have availability thru the end of the month. Good deals on Valencia's will be on a 72/56's. **Navel Oranges** started shipping light volumes last week. Volumes will increase over the end of this week and next week. The color and Brix is starting to improve each day with the cooler temps at night. On **Florida Juice Oranges**, started hamkins now. **Florida Navels** started late last week we will have bags and bulk available. Import navels should be finishing this week.

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.

MARKET ALERT



Peppers, Bell



Bell peppers are challenging for both sides of the country this week. GA's fruit quality and yields were affected by the hurricane which has significantly limited supply. Color is one of the main concerns as the plant foliage that protects fruit from the sun isn't as plentiful after the storm. Plant City, FL has light numbers to offer, but it's not enough to cover demand. Bells look to be short in the East until South FL gets into volume in December. Western markets have a hodge-podge of supply. Stockton, Oxnard and LeGrand are each at the tail end of the season and will wind down soon. Coachella is up and running, but is struggling to get any size above large. Quality is varied by area/grower and there's a lot of choice fruit in the market. With only a few shippers crossing minimal amounts at Nogales so far, the next few weeks may continue with snug availability.



Peppers, Jalapenos



Pepper quality varies and prices are up. Hot peppers are in the same situation as green bells. With Santa Maria slowing down along with Baja, and Mainland slowly starting, the Western chili situation is expected to be snug for the short term. There's a little volume coming out of GA, but not much product to speak of in the East this week.

Pineapples



Good volumes and HIGH quality 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



Potatoes



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

The market remains steady for the most part across all sizes and grades on norkotahs. The US fall potato yield is projected at 445 cwt per acre. That is 7 cwt less than the 20-year trend yield. Seeing good quality and supply. We will soon get into Christmas tree season where the trucks will get scarce and freight could get tight as well.

Squash



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

With multiple areas in FL and GA in production, squash supply is solid in the East. Quality is varied on squash by growing area. Georgia's quality is fair while Florida's quality is very good. The market is falling due to increased availability. It will most likely stay that way until Georgia finishes. Although Baja's numbers are limited, Western supply is also strong due to volume increases out of Mainland Mexico.

Strawberries



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Supplies are on the lighter side, and prices are up. Still seeing some quality issues out of Northern California. Season wrapping up in Salinas/Watsonville. Oxnard and Santa Maria harvesting with better volumes. 16-18ct being reported out of Oxnard. Labor still continues to be an issue with all growers. Florida is beginning strawberry plantings. Expect to have pallet quantities by end of November. Mexico starting up by next week. Seeing smaller count size out of MX so far.

MARKET ALERT

Tomatoes



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

The Palmetto/Ruskin tomato deal is rolling along, but is still another 7-14 days from volumes that will satisfy market demand. The size profile on rounds has been small due to hot weather during fruit set so there's a lot of 6x6's and 6x7's available this week. Growers expect to see sizing move up over the next 10-14 days as new plantings come online. Romas are particularly in short supply as farms have light harvest schedules in the first few weeks of production. Grape tomato volumes remain limited this week, but should build gradually going forward. Although reports vary, quality on the early fruit is good, but not perfect. Both quality and volumes are expected to improve as we move further into the season, barring any major weather events. With CA's San Joaquin valley growers finishing up this week and next, Western markets are moving toward Mexico as the primary source of tomatoes. Baja's Fall round and roma crops have started up which will provide more volume as we move through November. Eastern Mexico farms anticipate moderate roma supplies and sporadic production of rounds for the next 30 days. These two areas will carry tomato supply until early-mid December, when Mainland Mexico is on tap to begin with mature greens. On the grape tomato front, supply remains limited this week. Cooler temperatures and quality issues from recent rains have taken a toll on production numbers in Baja.



MARKET OUTLOOK

MARKET ALERT

Onions Green - With the heavy rains affecting Desert regions in Mexico, the green onion production that was already down will be highly impacted. Demand is high for Green Onions, this will cause higher prices on the market. Quality is good, supplies are extremely short. Growers are pro rating orders by 50%.

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.

Cabbage : Cabbage continues to be tight and the market is still very strong. North Carolina cabbage was wiped out in the hurricane that went through a few weeks ago and Georgia will not start picking for another month. There is some cabbage more readily available this week and quality is good when you can find product. GA is basically wiped out. Cabbage out of the east very short and very expensive!

FDA: Romaine surveillance, testing program on the way

“The Food and Drug Administration’s investigation into a deadly E. coli outbreak traced to Yuma, Ariz., romaine turned up no specific source of the pathogen, but concluded it’s likely contaminated irrigation water from a canal that passes near a cattle operation. In releasing a number of documents on the investigation Nov. 1, the FDA notified the leafy greens industry it will soon start a romaine lettuce surveillance program, analyzing samples from all growing areas. If pathogens are detected, the FDA will follow the supply chain to its source to determine if it was produce under “insanitary conditions that render them adulterated.” “FDA will also explore regulatory options and consider appropriate enforcement actions against firms and farms that grow, pack or process fresh lettuce and leafy greens under insanitary conditions,” according to a letter co-written by Stephen Ostroff, deputy commissioner for foods and veterinary medicine, and Melinda Plaisier, associate commissioner for regulatory affairs. The letter was addressed to the heads of the California and Arizona Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement and the departments of agriculture for those states, which produce most of the leafy greens in the U.S. The letter, posted on the FDA’s website, was also copied to the United Fresh Produce Association, Produce Marketing Association, Western Growers, the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association and Yuma ag groups.

In recounting steps taken by federal and state agencies to trace the source of the lethal outbreak, FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said efforts were hampered because the “majority of the records collected in this investigation were either paper or handwritten.”

That will change, according to Gottlieb’s Nov. 1 statement. Producers and distributors need to:

- Adopt traceability best practices and technology to ensure easy access to farm-to-fork data;
 - Explore modern approaches to standardized record-keeping; and
 - Use additional tools or labels on packaging to improve traceability.”

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,