



WEATHER UPDATE

Yuma— Sunny all week with no forecasted precipitation. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the upper 40s. **Mexico (Culiacan)**— Sunny with some clouds and highs in the mid 80s and lows in the upper 50s. **Florida, Southern**— Partly cloudy with cooler temperatures later in the week. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the upper 50s. **Oxnard**— Weekend showers followed by sunshine all week with highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 50s. **Salinas**— Weekend showers in Salinas as well with sunshine and partly cloudy all week. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the mid 40s. **Idaho**— Snow expected most of the week with highs in the lower 30's and lows in the mid teens.

TRANSPORTATION

The National Diesel Average has been recorded at \$3.070 up \$0.004 a gal from last week and down \$0.137 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 overall nationally at this time. Some slight shortages in the WA/ID/OR areas due to Christmas tree season.**

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MARKET ALERT

BLACKBERRIES

CELERY

GREEN BEANS

POTATOES

**LETTUCE - ICEBERG,
ROMAINE**

STRAWBERRIES

Tomatoes

COMMODITIES ON THE RADAR:

CUCUMBERS

MARKET OUTLOOK



Apples



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

Asparagus



The asparagus market remains steady this week. Good volume coming in from Peru and Mexico. Quality is good from both regions. Expect the market to remain steady going into next week.

Avocados



Markets are stable and supplies are plentiful. 48's and larger continue to be stronger than 60's and smaller. Expect to see this trend hold over the coming weeks. Demand remains steady but should begin increasing as we move closer to the holidays. Also, foodservice demand is expected to increase. Volume for #2 fruit is strong and should remain that way as we progress into January.

Bananas



Plenty of supplies from now until week 50, then after that week we might be in a situation where supplies will be tougher to come by. This situation may remain until week 6-7 of 2020. Good supplies on organics, no major issues for the balance of the year. Finally, plantains still remain super tight and expected to remain tight until beginning of December.



Berries



Blackberries– ALERT: Product supply is on the rebound and is expected to improve as weather in South America continues to improve. Mexico supply is light but steady and will continue to increase throughout December. Expect to see a more balanced position within two weeks.

Blueberries: Production out of Peru and Chile has been solid. Expect volume to stay steady in December and great opportunities for promotions on blues.

Raspberries: Production from Mexico was impacted last week with recent rains, but supply is still steady and should remain that way with current weather patterns holding.

MARKET OUTLOOK

Broccoli



Supply and quality continue to be solid as desert harvested product is in full swing. Expect to see no escalation and a steady supply to match steady demand. Quality has been reported as great.

Brussels Sprouts



Supplies are holding steady for this week. Growers are anticipating a very good Holiday pull, the market will remain active as we move through December leading up to Christmas. Talk with your growers to ensure all your orders get covered.

Cabbage



Cabbage supplies and quality have been reported as steady and fair to good on both red and green cabbage.

Cauliflower



Good quality is reported by multiple growers and market pressure has fully released. Supply has reached volume and good weather reports next week should add to excellent supply and quality.

Cantaloupes



We have finally seen some relief on the cantaloupe front. Loupe supply has started to build up on the east coast following the holiday week which has allowed the market to settle. Sizing has been primarily in the 9/12 range with some jumbo fruit being available. Quality remains very consistent with brix levels holding steady in the 11-14% range.

MARKET ALERT

Celery



Supplies continue to be limited this week. The Celery is currently coming out of Santa Maria and Oxnard CA, we are waiting for the Celery production to start in Yuma AZ in three or four weeks. Prices are still escalated.

Corn



Corn supplies are tight and pricing is higher this week. Cold weather in the growing areas have created a gap out East. In the West, CA is winding down and Mexico is late due to the weather. Expect limited supplies for the next week or so.

MARKET OUTLOOK



Cucumbers



ON THE RADAR: Rain in Mexico kept harvesters out of the fields for 3-7 days which created a large supply gap for cucumbers while FL finishes up and before Honduras begins in 3-4 weeks. Expectations on yield are down to about 50 percent due to the wind and rain leading to potential scarring and quality concerns. Expect to see an increase in markets due to lack of supply for the rest of December and leading into January.

Eggplant



The market is somewhat steady this week. Higher out East due to GA winding down and Florida just starting up. CA continues to harvest eggs, but quality is only fair, and they should wrap up over the next week or so. Mexico still has steady supplies with decent quality crossing through Nogales.

Grapes



California Red Seedless—Allison's are still available. Quality and condition are good as they are getting packed to order on most cases. Supplies should be available until shipping the week of Dec 16th. Peru Red Seedless—Few crimson are around on the east coast. Movement is slow as California reds are still available and less expensive. Peru Green Seedless—Some Sugs and Thompson are avail on the east. Sweet Globes and a few Ivory are available but markets are in the high 30's and climbing as demand exceeds supply in the coming weeks.



Green Beans



Green bean prices have remained escalated even after the Thanksgiving holiday. Demand has dropped off some and the FOB price on beans has began to come down. Due to limited supply, the green bean market is still on alert, but an increase in harvesting will release some of this pressure moving forward. Expect this to stabilize as we continue to move through the month of December. Quality has been reported as good to excellent.

Herbs



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

Cilantro – Supply has improved and product quality is fair-good. The move south has allowed supply to meet demand and hold the market steady. Expect this to stay steady in the coming weeks.

Honeydews



Just like cantaloupes, honeydew availability will finally begin to step up by the end of this week as we await container arrivals into Florida. Relief from a limited market is finally around the corner and everyone's patience and flexibility is appreciated. Sizing will be primarily 5/5Js with some 6s and few 8s coming in from Guatemala. Quality is strong with solid brix levels in the 11-15% range.

MARKET OUTLOOK

MARKET ALERT

QUALITY



SUPPLY



Iceberg



Supply has picked up but is still on watch due to rain. Growers are showing better harvest numbers out of Yuma and expect for this to continue as the forecast looks sunny next week. Head size is running on the smaller size in order to avoid quality issues from rainfall. Plan for markets to release some in the coming weeks.

QUALITY



SUPPLY



Kale



Supplies have remained steady. Good quality reported with multiple growers. Expect market to remain steady for the next few weeks.

MARKET ALERT

QUALITY



SUPPLY



Leaf



ON THE RADAR- Romaine: Romaine has began to rebound and has seen good supply this week and can expect good supply in the coming weeks. Slightly colder temps and some rain last week, there has been some slight fringe burn and peel on romaine. As weather continues to look solid, we anticipate better numbers in the coming weeks. We will keep our eye on romaine until a full rebound from recent supply issues.

Green Leaf/ Red Leaf/ Butter (Boston) Lettuce: The transition down to Yuma is complete and product has been in good supply and also good quality. With good weather on the 10-day forecast, we expect to continue to see good volume on green and red leaf in the coming weeks.

QUALITY



SUPPLY



Tender Leaf



Supplies and quality are reported as good after the transition down to Yuma has completed. Expect steady supply and overall quality to remain solid in the coming weeks.

QUALITY



SUPPLY



Lemons & Limes



LIMES: Lime market and supply is currently steady but we can expect to see a rise in the coming weeks with a slight increase in FOB's and possible reduction in supply while demand will continue to stay steady. We have seen the 200's market price increase in relation to other sizes, but all sizes are currently priced in high teens to low 20's.

LEMONS: Lemons are steady this week. Very little fluctuation from last week with FOB pricing out of CA and AZ markets. Smaller fruit remains more readily available; however, no supply issues have been reported and quality has been solid.

MARKET OUTLOOK



Onions



This market remains steady and is slightly lower markets than what suppliers were anticipating. Medium size is a soft spot in the market with heavy volume and FOBs around \$5. Jumbo's are between \$6-6.50 while Colossal's are \$7-8. Red's are following suit and have shown an overall softer market. Nothing is indicating a sudden shift with the current trend on onions.

Onions, Green



Supplies are steady this week, growers are anticipating a bigger demand for Green Onions as we continue through the Holiday. Expect the market to remain steady or increase slightly due to higher demand.

Oranges



California navels have remained in full swing and are showing volume across the board. All sizes are in excellent supply but size is peaking on 56s and 64s. Market price and FOB's have remained consistent over the past two weeks. Florida has seen cooler evenings recently which has helped with color and flavor as the season moves forward.

Pears



Barts are now available with sizes peaking on 100/110/120ct. New crop Washington D'Anjou are available and quality is excellent.

Peppers, Bell



Green bell pepper market is steady this week. Steady supplies and good quality from both areas. The market on color bells is higher this week. Supplies are tight due to transitioning in the West coast. East coast production out of GA continues but quality reports of some bruising. Florida is slowly starting with volume and quality is good. The pepper market has remained steady even with MX supplies being lessened due to recent rain.

Peppers, Chili



Supplies out of the East remain steady, with good quality. Supplies out of the west remain lighter this week due to higher demand and Mexico transitioning. Jalapenos, Poblano, and Anaheim peppers out west remain light. While serrano and tomatillos both have steady supplies. Expect supplies to improve in a couple of weeks.

MARKET OUTLOOK



Pineapples



Volumes are expected to improve along with demand in order to cover our thanksgiving pull. We are expecting volumes to remain healthy until the end of the year with the fruit trending large.



Potatoes



EXTREME ALERT: Fresh potato shipments from the 2019 crop are likely to fall 11.19 million cwt short of 2018 movement. **Expected shipments would be the lowest in modern history.** Russet table potato prices have exceeded year-earlier values by an average of 70.6% in past years when fresh shipments have fallen more than 5% short of year-earlier movement. The potato market is steady from last week but still on EXTREME alert. FOBs exceeding \$20 on all big spuds and smaller stuff isn't far behind. Additionally, most suppliers are out of 40s-70s even on market buys. This is a tough time with holiday pulls, not only on supply but also on trucks as freight is up as well. We recommend flexibility on sizing to get through the holidays and we will continue to monitor the situation and keep you updated on this unprecedented market.



Squash



The squash market is steady to higher this week. Supplies are tight both out of the east and west. Florida is producing good supplies with good quality. GA's pricing is higher due to the weather and seasonal decline. Reports of some quality issues like wind scarring. Mexico's pricing is higher this week as well, due to the weather issues that affected all MX commodities. Expect to see a tightened market with scarring and scuffing due to heavy rain and wind.



Strawberries



Historically (7-year USDA data) late fall and early winter produces the lowest yields and production due to sporadic weather and transitioning growing regions. On top of historically low production, heavy rain last week and showers over the weekend have quickly halted normal Santa Maria, CA production and will leave the CA market empty until Oxnard begins in late December or early January. With CA production ending early, the demand will lean on Florida and Mexico production but will enter a demand exceeds supply situation. Florida production has begun but is a week or two behind normal schedule, leaving volumes light. Mexico has had an uptick in production, but sizing has been small and overall quality has been only fair due to rain and humidity over the past few weeks.



Tomatoes



Tomatoes are on alert due to rain in MX. Chihuahua, Sinaloa, Sonora and Baja California were all hit with major rain and have reached state of emergencies in most regions. This combined with abnormally hot fall in FL has created lower yields for December harvest on East Coast programs. East Coast round and roma yields were significantly lowered due to fall heat. Both are equally struggling moving into next week due to lower yields out of FL and storms cutting production out of MX. Grape programs are stable but leaning towards the lighter end and will continue with both FL and MX production.

Final compliance deadline nears for ELD mandate

December 2, 2019

“The final compliance deadline for mandated electronic logging devices in U.S. trucks will arrive Dec. 17.

Beginning on that date, all motor carriers and drivers subject to the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) electronic logging devices final rule must use an ELD.

The deadline also applies to “grandfathered” automatic onboard recording devices, which after Dec. 17 will no longer be allowed under the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations to provide records of duty status as a substitute to a required ELD. Motor carriers utilizing an automatic onboard recording device must have a fully operational ELD installed by Dec. 17.

The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance — a nonprofit association comprised of local, state, provincial, territorial and federal commercial motor vehicle safety officials — said in a news release that inspectors will begin fully enforcing the ELD rule on Dec. 17; there will be no “soft enforcement” grace period.

In addition, the release said the FMCSA has said there will be no extensions or exceptions made to the Dec. 17 ELD rule deadline. According to enforcement guidelines in the North American Standard Out-of-Service Criteria, the release said a property-carrying driver who does not have a record of duty status in his or her possession when one is required will be declared out of service for 10 hours and a passenger-carrying driver without a record of duty status when one is required will be placed out of service for eight hours.

An electronic logging device automatically records a driver’s driving time and other hours-of-service data as a way to minimize driver fatigue and improve safety, according to the release.

The device monitors a vehicle’s engine data and can detect when the vehicle is moving.

The FMCSA has published an [online list](#) of frequently-asked-questions about the ELD mandate.”

Source: <https://www.thepacker.com/article/final-compliance-deadline-nears-eld-mandate>

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