



September 28, 2023

### **ASPARAGUS**

Production continues to be steady from Northern and Southern Baja. Growers are reporting seedling and spreading due to the heat in these growing regions. Production in Southern Peru is also steady. Bigger sizing is available due to more fields opening in the South. Markets have come off with better production in Mexico and Peru.

### **BROCCOLI**

Supplies are light. Broccoli demand is strong, with supplies coming from Salinas, Santa Maria, and Mexico. Growers report lower yields due to summer defects like brown bead and hollow core. Market pricing for broccoli has increased and is expected to remain strong for a few weeks.

### **BROCCOLINI**

Supplies will be light. Demand has increased. Supplies are expected to be limited for a few weeks. Growers are reporting brown bead and flowering defects in Broccolini. Market pricing is higher.

### **BLUEBERRIES (FORCE MAJEURE)**

Prices for Blueberries are trending up. Growers are calling Force Majeure on Blueberries. The domestic crops out of the Northwest were impacted by recent rains. The season out of the Northwest will end earlier than usual this year. In normal times, imports from Peru start to come into play in September. Their crop is being impacted with usual temperatures due to El Nino. The higher-than-normal temperatures reduced the normal pollination cycle of the blueberry plants. Growers are forecasting a 50% crop reduction out of Peru this year. Higher prices and order cuts will be expected through the end of the year. Suggest offering Strawberries, Blackberries, and Raspberries on the menus to replace blueberries where possible.

### **BRUSSELS SPROUTS**

Supplies continue to be light with fair quality. Demand is strong. Market pricing and contracts will remain escalated. Supplies will remain light causing markets to remain high and prices continue to remain escalated.

### **CELERY**

Supplies are light with fair quality. Supplies are currently coming from Salinas and Santa Maria. Market pricing has escalated compared to the previous week. Summer defects and lower yields have caused most of the market reactions. There is a slight presence of insect damage. Supplies will only be fair the next few weeks.

### **CHILI PEPPERS**

Prices for Chili Peppers are steady. Production out of the Northeast, Mexico and California remains tight. Growers are forecasting the market to remain tight for another 2 or 3 weeks.



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### **CILANTRO**

Supplies are limited, and the quality is fair. Market pricing has escalated. Supplies are shipping out of Salinas and Santa Maria. Growers are reporting lower yields and fair quality. Market conditions are expected to continue for a few weeks.

### **CORN**

Prices for Corn are trending up. Production is transitioning down to Georgia. It will be a bumpy start to the season out of Georgia due to damage caused by the hurricane earlier this month.

### **GREEN ONIONS (EXTREME)**

Supplies will be very limited for the next few weeks. Previous Hurricane caused some crop damage, previous weeks the growing area suffered an extreme heat wave. Current supplies are coming from Mexico. Escalated markets are to continue for a few weeks. Expect fair quality only on the green onions for the next few weeks.

### **GRAPES**

Hurricane Hilary caused significant damage to California's table grape vineyards during peak harvest time, causing significant loss and further damage. The aftermath of the hurricane has resulted in additional rain, further exacerbated the situation. The market is expected to remain tight until the import transition ends.

### **LEMONS**

Lemons have been tight all summer from all regions. D3 shippers had hoped to begin harvesting within the next week, but heavy rains have delayed harvesting until the end of September. Chile, Argentina, and Mexico have been covering but are struggling to maintain a constant weekly supply. Overall supply is expected to be better going into October once D3 starts. If loading oranges out of Florida is feasible, import lemons can be shipped to Florida, allowing trucks to load both. This will require some planning, so keep in touch with your supplier.

### **LETTUCE ICEBERG**

Supplies will be light. Quality is also reported as fair. Weights are expected to be about average; lettuce heads will also be on the smaller size. Yields are lower, causing the markets to increase. Market pricing is higher, and it is expected to continue escalating. Weather changes are starting to have effects in the market.

### **LIMES**

The market is elevated, costs continue to increase, and expected to continue increasing through October. Availability will decline in Q4 due to the severe weather a few months prior impacting the new bloom. The heat and humidity have impacted quality and shelf life, contributing to low availability. Quality has reached a seasonal low of 35% pack-out loss of total harvested yields. Peak sizing is currently dominated by small fruit, including 230's and 250's, while large fruit are extremely limited.



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### ORANGES

Valencia 88's and smaller are very tight. Valencia is expected to be done while Navels are delayed until the first or second week of November due to weather. An eminent crop gap is occurring. There are options out of Florida but recommend subbing with grapefruit.

### PINEAPPLES

Pineapple continues to be extremely tight, particularly in 5ct and 6ct. Crownless pineapples have also tightened up. There are still 8ct pineapples available. The size curve is likely to shift again toward larger fruit this month. Advise to be flexible on sizing at time of loading. The main cause of the limited availability is the due to the unique weather patterns in the tropics.

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## Peruvian blueberry prices double as production falls

September 27, 2023 | [freshfruitportal.com](https://freshfruitportal.com)

As Peru's blueberry season began this spring, the Peruvian Blueberry Producers Association (Proarandanos) warned of lower production volumes for the 2023-24 season. General Manager Luis Miguel Vegas declares that from the beginning of the campaign in May, until mid-July, Peru exported 7.127 tons of fresh fruit, 9% less than the same period last year.

Early projections suggested a high probability that the total volume exported for 2023-24 would fall by 10% to 15% year-on-year, mainly due to atypical weather conditions in Peru caused by the El Niño phenomenon. However, the industry is now warning of an even greater fall.

Alfredo Lira Chirif a veteran of the industry with 11 years of experience as the general manager of Agrícola Cerro Prieto, one of the main blueberry exporters in Peru, says:

"The drop in volume for the 2023/2024 season will be much greater than the 10% or 15% predicted by Proarándanos; the drop will be around 30% or 35% in volume, depending on how it develops up to December. I believe that what some agribusiness companies are going to do is extend the campaign until January, February, and March, taking advantage of this last cold period that we have left. In this way, they will try to get into the Chilean window, which ends in April."

Lira notes, "This, which some agribusinesses in Peru have already been doing, could mean recovering a little volume, in order to finish the campaign with 20% or 25% less volume in April, as long as there are no further rains due to the El Niño phenomenon."

### Pricing

This decrease in production has caused a sharp increase in Peruvian blueberry prices.

"To date, prices are much higher than last year, they a....

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