



Market Update

MARKET ALERTS:

January 25, 2019

Cantaloupes—Guatemala is still seeing effects of virus even in new growing areas which is severely affecting yields and providing much smaller fruit (15/18ct). We had anticipated a decrease in production by late February but it now appears it will start earlier in the month. During this period flexibility of sizing may be imperative.

Honeydews— Remain in a demand exceeds supply situation with larger fruit being extremely challenging. Production, due to virus, is heavily leaning to 8/9s and even 10s which we have not packed in years. This gives a realistic indication of how severe the situation is at production level. We do not see much change to this trend over the next three weeks. The need for flexibility on sizing with the dewes will be required over this timeframe due to the reality of what is being harvested.

Bananas - Supplies will be tight for the next 3-4 weeks. This lower volume should affect only market customers. Contracted customers should see no issues. Quality is good at this time, and generally 1st semester of the year should be smooth for the program.

Strawberries- Pricing is steady going into next week, as rains in Florida and CA have impacted harvesting and quality. Supplies have become limited this week from many growers as they assess the damage, delaying some loadings. Quality and berry sizing varies greatly depending on the growing area and farm. Florida has faced a rainy week and more rain to come in the next 7 days. Quality is being impacted out of Florida from the rains. Picking has also slowed and orders in to load are being pushed to a day or two out. Seeing some larger fruit 12-16ct. It has been a cold and wet week in California. Quality looking fair to good out of Oxnard due to rain events this week. Larger sizing 14-16ct; some slight discoloration. Oxnard is forecasted for dry, warm, and windy days ahead and this will help to get harvesting back on track. Could see some white shoulders and wet packaging next week out of California and Florida next week. Mexico farmers are taking advantage of the weather related issues in CA and FL and pricing is higher to take on the demand. Sizing out of Mexico still on the smaller side; 22-24ct. Quality is good out of Mexico. Volumes increasing. Once we get past the rains in CA and FL, the outlook for the Valentine's Day pulls in looking favorable!

Raspberry ALERT— Availability is extremely tight and expected to remain so through January. Mexico is gapping; Baja starting up later this month. Pricing higher. Distributors: Get your pre-books in to get covered!

Watermelon—Pricing has doubled on watermelons. Supplies of watermelons continue to look tight which has boosted prices significantly. Expect short supplies out of Mexico through various growing regions. In the next few weeks, we should see increasing supplies from central Mexico to Northern.

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. Have a great week!

Keeping You Informed,

Your Dedicated NPC, LLC Staff



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Grapes—The US market for imported table grapes had shown a solidity during the month of January that it hadn't presented in several seasons. First, California is no longer a factor on the US East Coast. Second, Peru diverted a large portion of its first grapes to markets outside of North America. These factors, added to the small arrivals of early Chilean grapes. Chilean table grape shipments through week 2 have decreased by 54% compared to last season. The harvest in northern Chile continues. The red seedless varieties are being cleaned with late premium varieties, such as Timco and Allison, which are in full production in Vallenar and Copiapo. The harvest of the Thompson Seedless variety in Chile is expected to begin in earnest the first days of February.

Green Peppers -Tight supplies for the next 5 weeks. Extreme crop damage during the New Years holiday freeze in Mexico

Green Onions - Due to the recent rains and cold weather in the desert areas, it is taking harvesting crews much longer than normal to pick green onions and remove the excess mud accumulated from the wintry weather. The growth of the Green Onions has also been drastically affected thus lowering yields across the board. There are presently roughly 35%+ less Green Onions at pack outs on a daily basis. Growers are moving ahead to other fields in an effort to catch up, however this generally also has potential to cause smaller green onions with lighter color. We are expecting a little warmer weather the next few days, hence hoping this market should show improvement within the next 7-10 days. In the interim, prorates are in effect at shipping point – prices are HIGHER!

Celery— Supplies are still limited this week. Cold weather caused a stunt in growth, production slow down. There is a high demand for Celery at the moment. Growers are reporting good quality. Supplies will be short for the next two weeks.

Cabbage— Supplies are extremely short this week. The cold weather is affecting supplies, there is also a higher demand for cabbage. Expect to see fair quality at best, markets to stay strong the next two weeks.

Weather Alert

The Midwest is expecting the harshest cold weather for the season next week. Snow is also expected from the northern plains to portions of the mid Mississippi and Ohio Valleys this week-end. A storm with a larger and more organized swath of snow will then take a nosedive southward into the Northern Plains on Sunday before reaching the lower Great Lakes on Monday. The potential exists for more than 6 inches of snow to fall along that corridor, which can include the cities of Fargo, North Dakota; Minneapolis; Madison and Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Chicago. Strong winds will whip through the High Plains even in the absence of snow, with gusts past 50 mph possible from eastern Montana to Nebraska and Kansas from Sunday through Monday.