



# Market Update

## **MARKET ALERTS:**

**February 15, 2019**

**Cauliflower**-Supplies are light this week, low yields are being harvested due to weather. Expect to see higher prices on cauliflower over the next few weeks. Quality has been reported as only fair at this time.

**Celery** - Supplies are very limited this week, weather is the main cause for the escalated markets. There is a high demand for celery at the moment, quality has been reported as only fair at this time. Supplies will be short over the next few weeks.

**Chili Peppers**- The Jalapeno and Serrano markets remain active, and demand exceeds supply. Supplies out of Mexico are expected to remain short until new fields start in March out of Sinaloa. Quality is improving but there has been some misshape, varied sizing, scarring and overall weaker pepper crossing. Florida has minimal volume until Spring crop begins in late March/April.

**Green Onions** - Supplies are still limited coming from Mexico. Weather has affected the Green Onion supplies, with the high demand and low supplies expect the Green Onion markets to stay strong.

**Green Kale** - Supplies are limited this week, Demand exceeds supplies at this time. Quality is reported as fair, expect to see higher markets and short supplies for the next few weeks.

**Blackberries**- Supplies have been tight. February could potentially stay lower in volumes due to poor weather conditions in Mexico. A good percentage of the fruit are under hoops so the shortage seems to be isolated to only a few shippers. One of the defects caused by this rain is "red cell" which is a bursting and breakdown in the individual beads on the berries. The market is slightly higher and quality is just fair. Look for lower numbers available towards the end of the week.

**Melons— Cantaloupe** market has remained fairly steady this week even after all of the cold weather caused the majority of the country to a standstill. Guatemala has been very heavy on smaller sized melons but we should begin to see some relief back to a larger sizing profile with new arrivals starting late this week. Honduras production has had mostly very large fruit but should also begin to plane off with a nice mix of 9/12s rather than jumbo fruit. Quality has been strong with consistent netting and good internal characteristics. Brix levels have been steady in the 11-13% range. **Honeydews** remain in a demand exceeds situation and there is no relief in site over the next 2-3 weeks. 5/6s are feeling the most pressure as production has been leaning very heavily to smaller fruit which has been 8/9s and even 10s. Contracted commitments have been the priority leaving very little availability for the open market which has kept the pipeline empty and market strong. **Due to the very low percentages of larger fruit coming in flexibility of sizing is a strong possibility to ensure coverage of requested volumes.**



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**Bananas**— Supplies will be tight for the next 3-4 weeks. This lower volume should affect only market customers. Difficult growing conditions are affecting the stubbornness of the fruit. Fruit is taking longer than normal to ripen.

**Grapes**— Market remains unchanged. The very little Chilean product coming in is being used to cover pre-commitments. All that fruit is Jumbo size. Volumes keep getting adjusted lower out of Chile. Short crop gets shorter as the saying goes. We are hoping volumes for reds pick up in March. Greens look like they will remain tight throughout the deal.

### **Weather Alert**

Winter Weather Advisories have been issued for the High Plains through the southern Ohio Valley including cities like Billings, Mont., Hot Springs, S.D., Topeka, Kan., Lincoln, Neb., St. Louis, Mo., Carbondale, Ill., as well as Lexington, Ky. The highest snow amounts will be found in the High Plains and middle Mississippi Valley where 3 to 6 inches are expected by this evening. As the snow-maker pushes east, 1 to 3 inches of wet snow are possible through southern Virginia on Saturday.

West Coast- Heavy rain along the California coast into the weekend. The rain is also expected to hit the desert region with significant amounts. Expecting very cold weather next week in Yuma that will bring field freeze.

**Southern California** EXTENDED OUTLOOK: High pressure remains over the region next week keep cool temps with freezing temps for the inland valleys and near-freezing in the coastal valleys. The high pressure weakens later next week causing temps to moderate slightly, and though confidence is low, the area is expected to remain dry thru the end of the month.

**Western Arizona / Yuma** - EXTENDED OUTLOOK: Unseasonably cool max temps Feb 19 (low 50s to low 60s) along with widespread lettuce ice Feb 19-20 due to an unseasonably strong cold trof passing overhead. Slight chance for rain Feb 21-22 with max temps remaining unseasonably cool (mid 50s to low 60s)

**Transportation Alert out of Mexico:** Mexico is experiencing a National Fuel Shortage due to alleged corruption. We have not seen this affect supply crossing into the United States quite yet, but it could affect imports over the next several weeks. We will keep you informed when we have updates.

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](mailto: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