



WEATHER UPDATE

Salinas - If you were at the PMA last week you are probably missing the weather there. Highs in the 70s, lows in the 50s and sunshine for the upcoming week. **Oxnard** - Sunny skies fill the forecast with highs in the 80s and lows in the 60s next week. **Mexico (Culiacan)**- Partly cloudy with thunderstorms for the next seven days; highs in the 90s and lows in the 70s. **Florida, Southern**— There's finally a chance for a break in the storms starting on Monday but they return for the rest of the week with highs in the 90s and lows in the 70s. **Idaho** - Mostly sunny for the upcoming week; highs in the 90s and lows in the 50s.

TRANSPORTATION

The National Diesel Average has been recorded at \$3.220 down \$0.019 a gal from last week and up **\$0.730** 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 pretty tight NM with a consistent slight shortage across the rest of the country.**

[Check Out Our New Website](#)



MARKET ALERT

Lemons

Oranges

MARKET OUTLOOK



Apples



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Apple supplies remaining up 11% or so compared to last year (19 million remaining, compared to 17 million remaining last year.. Red delicious supplies are down substantially (-4 million cases), granny supplies are up substantially (+4.5 million cases). Movement overall has been below target, mostly due to the focus shifting from apples to summer fruits, and on the packing side to packing cherries. We anticipate carrying red delicious, granny, fuji, gala and honeycrisp to new crop (no gap).

Asparagus



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

As Mexico gets close to the end of season the larger sizes are scarce, but Peru has been coming on strong. Supply and Demand should be well balanced with the volume available, And sizing issues should be minimal during the transition period.

Avocados



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Its that time of the year unfortunately. Supplies are much tighter and prices are up dramatically in the last week. The old crop is more or less finished and loca does not have as much volume. 40's and larger are now the tightest sizes, but all sizes and grades are higher. #2 fruit is less available and loca is producing only around 5% #2's, the old crop was producing 25-30% #2. Markets will remain tight for the foreseeable future, and although not expected to be as high as last year, could stay in the \$50-60 range through October. California is winding down and may continue to pick for the next couple of weeks, but that fruit will stay out west or in CA only. Peru will try to capitalize on bigger sizes, while MX struggles to come up with them.

Bananas



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Banana volumes are expected to be sufficient with high quality fruit coming into the market. The growing conditions are good as the anticipation of the 2018-19 school year is upon us.

Berries



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Blueberries: Overall quality is good. Some inconsistency in sizing due to the summer heat. Good volumes continue out of Michigan and British Columbia. New Jersey and Oregon are finishing up. Very limited quantities of Mexican blues coming in. **Blackberries:** Quality remains good. Summer heat starting to affect volumes. Oregon is finishing, and Washington slow to start. Prices lower. **Raspberries:** Quality remains good. Summer heat starting to affect volumes. Prices lower. Mexico is peaking volumes however.

MARKET OUTLOOK

Broccoli



Supplies are short and the market is very active. Growers struggling to cover contract, demand is higher this week.

Brussels Sprouts



Supply has increased as Salinas has started but it is still not covering the amount of demand and prices remain up.

Cauliflower



Steady to normal supplies this week. Creamy color, quality is fair.

Cantaloupes



Continued heat in the growing region has caused the production on both Cantaloupe and Honey Dew to continue to shift to larger fruit. The overall quality continues to be outstanding with Cantaloupe brix levels in the 13-16%. Unfortunately the 15ct Cantaloupe volumes are extremely light, and Honey Dew are no different with 5cts being the bulk of the volume, and 6/8ct dews getting very tight.

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



Supplies are back to normal this week. Markets are lower, with lighter demand this week. Quality is good in Salinas. The Final Pack looks really nice. We expect sizing to be heavier to the larger sizes all week in Salinas. It sounds like there will be heavier numbers for the industry next week. Michigan celery has started, but We are hearing the quality is just fair at best.

Corn



Plenty of Bicolor and white corn available, most growers are now picking yellow corn out of Michigan, Delaware and New York. Overall quality is good.

MARKET OUTLOOK



Cucumbers



Baja's production is slowing as early crops start to fade out, but consistent supply and good quality are expected over the next few weeks. Growers in the Northwest have good volumes available as well, but are dealing with some weather-associated shape issues. Eastern volumes have ramped up as MI, NY, and NJ are now rolling along in stride.

Eggplant



With NJ, SC and other local deals in steady production, there's an adequate amount of eggplant available to meet Eastern needs. MI is due to start next week, which should keep things rolling smoothly in the East. California's Fresno area continues to harvest with moderate production and good quality.

Grapes



Arvin, CA has been harvesting Flames, Sugraones and Summer Royals and will begin Scarlet Royals and Magenta red varieties this week. Krissy should start harvesting next week. Sugraones and Ivory will finish up next week and Princess will begin the following. Red Globes are battling color due to the high temps with some being harvested.

Green Beans



Eastern green beans are still very short but supply should improve over the next week or so as VA gets back in business after a skip and NY volumes pick up. Western supply is limited, as all five production areas in CA are dealing with extreme heat.

Herbs



Seeing good quality and supply across the board.

Honeydews



Continued heat in the growing region has caused the production on both Cantaloupe and Honey Dew to continue to shift to larger fruit. The overall quality continues to be outstanding with Dew in the 12- 14% range. Unfortunately the 15ct Cantaloupe volumes are extremely light, and Honey Dew are no different with 5cts being the bulk of the volume, and 6/8ct dews getting very tight.

MARKET OUTLOOK

Iceberg



Supplies for the balance of the week are lower than normal. Cooler weather and lower yields are predicted. Hearing reports of lower weights on bins. As supplies decrease there has been a slight increase in demand for pounds and cartons as schools have started and local crops are either finishing or dealing with weather issues. Market is forecasted to be steady, if not increase.

Kale



Kale supplies remain abundant with little issues. The market is steady. Quality is good with minimal yellowing, little dehydration, and dark green color.

Leaf



ROMAINE LETTUCE Supplies are slightly above normal. Demand has been average. Quality has been good but there are occasional seeders and light fringe burn. Seeing reports of weights around 34-36 lbs. ROMAINE HEARTS Supplies are slightly above normal. Demand for hearts is good. Heart quality is good with very little complaints. The overall pack is clean with the same occasional issues as Romaine. Weights on the 12x3's range between 21-23lbs while the 48ct is weighing between 30-32lbs. GREEN LEAF: Supplies are normal. Quality has been good with occasional seeders and light fringe burn. Demand is good. Crop manager is reporting weights around 22-24lbs. RED LEAF: Supplies are normal. Demand is average. Quality is good.

Tender Leaf



Arugula: Product quality is fair due to wind burn and heat damage. Supplies are fair. Cilantro: Supplies are light due to quality. 10 week averages are in-effect. Kale Blends: Quality and supplies are good on kale. Parsley: Parsley quality is fair but supplies are good. Spinach: Product quality is fair due to wind burn and heat damage. Supplies are fair. Spring Mix: Supplies are fair and quality is fair.

MARKET ALERT



Lemons & Limes



Lemon— AOG – The market continues to be high and is expected to remain this way through September. Imported lemons are short and California harvest is complete. There have also been heavy rains in Argentina and Chili creating gaps in harvesting and shipments. No relief in sight until the California Desert harvest begins near the end of September / early October. Limes – We are seeing the market tighten up smaller fruit. Demand is consistent with less volume crossing the border from Mexico. This is causing the lime prices to start climbing a bit. Overall quality is good.



MARKET OUTLOOK



Onions



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Onions are steady from last week with JBO yellows around \$6, reds around \$11-12, and whites around \$14 out of CA. NM is slightly higher with JBO yellows around \$8.50. Seeing good quality and demand. Oregon will be back up and running next week with suppliers harvesting now.

MARKET ALERT

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Oranges



Oranges— AOG - Valencia oranges are moving steady but peaking on larger 72's and 88's. Smaller 113's and 138's are virtually non-existent. Suppliers are only packing 3 days a week in an attempt to keep product available through September. With the school starting right around the corner, supplies are only expected to get tighter through the remaining Valencia season into the new Navel harvest.

Pears



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

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.

Peppers, Bell



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

With MI, NJ, and NY now in the mix and several local deals recovering from previous concerns, the bell pepper situation has improved in the East. Western markets have fruit available from several areas in CA and also in the Northwest. Washington state's peppers are beginning to size down to XL now and are mostly good quality. Shipments out of CA areas show an occasional concern with bruising and thinner walls, but have overall excellent quality with strong, blocky peppers.

Peppers, Jalapenos



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

CA chili pepper production is ramping up with all varieties available by the end of next week. New regions in Mainland Mexico have begun shipping, but quality has been hit or miss so far. Some of the best quality is coming out of Baja where the fruit has good color, shape and size available on most all varieties. In the East, chili production is limited to a few local/regional deals with light to moderate production on select varieties.

Pineapples



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Very light arrivals expected for the next few weeks. 5ct & 6ct supplies will be extremely limited. This is a result of the traditional production curve. Market prices will adjust accordingly for the upcoming weeks. Quality of these new arrivals will be good.

MARKET OUTLOOK



Potatoes



The market is steady from last week with FOBs around \$12-14. Further into storage quality is heading downhill fast as we finish this season next week through the end of the month. NAPMN expects US growers to produce 400.0 million cwt of potatoes in 2018. That is 186,000 cwt more than the current estimate of 2017 production. Growers are likely to harvest 904,000 acres of potatoes in 2018, 1,700 acres more than they dug in 2017.

Squash



Yellow and zucchini squashes are readily available in the East with major production in NJ and MI and from many other local/regional deals Overall, quality is nice but scarring concerns persist on yellow from certain lots/shippers. In the West, Santa Maria's production has lightened up due to the heatwave that pushed fields and production together. Fortunately, Baja is back in business to help with supply.

Strawberries



Sizing remains on the smaller sizing. 18-22ct predominant. Pallet quantities of Stem on strawberries remain few and far between. Seeing some heat damage from the recent 100+ CA temps. Quality fair to good being reported. Expecting conservative summer pricing as growers try to stay on top of the volume predictions going into the fall. Santa Maria crops still on par for a mid-September start. Oxnard fall crops expected to start up in late October.

Tomatoes



Eastern tomato production continues to be hampered by rains in VA, TN, NC, AL. Harvests are sporadic as farms wait for fields to dry so they can pick, then more precipitation comes along. With attention to sorting, producers are able to put out a nice pack but shelf life is always a possible concern when there's a lot of water on the fruit. NJ and MI have had a little better luck with weather and offer moderate volumes on rounds and romas. Grape tomatoes are faring a bit better with the weather, but are a little snug due to lack of time in the fields. Although Mexico's production of rounds and romas is lighter this time of year, there's plenty of product available in CA. Market conditions and heat are reducing harvests on some sizes, but there's lots of fruit in the fields. Roma quality has been inconsistent with rounds faring a little better. Western grape tomato supply has tightened up as Baja growers wait for new plantings to begin over the next few weeks.

Watermelons



Production has leveled off a little bit relative to previous years after very high supplies the prior past few weeks. Prices continued to slide ever so slightly from the week prior indicating more of a hold steady than anything through the most recently completed full week. You can see that California/Arizona seedless prices continue to come in a bit higher than the rest of the country, though they're being joined heartily around the \$0.15 per pound mark from MarDel's crop coming on the market. .) It looks like Missouri is showing some of the lowest prices on their seedless, though Illiana is right there with them. North Carolina comes in slightly higher, and while Texas was a little higher of late they've mostly converged.



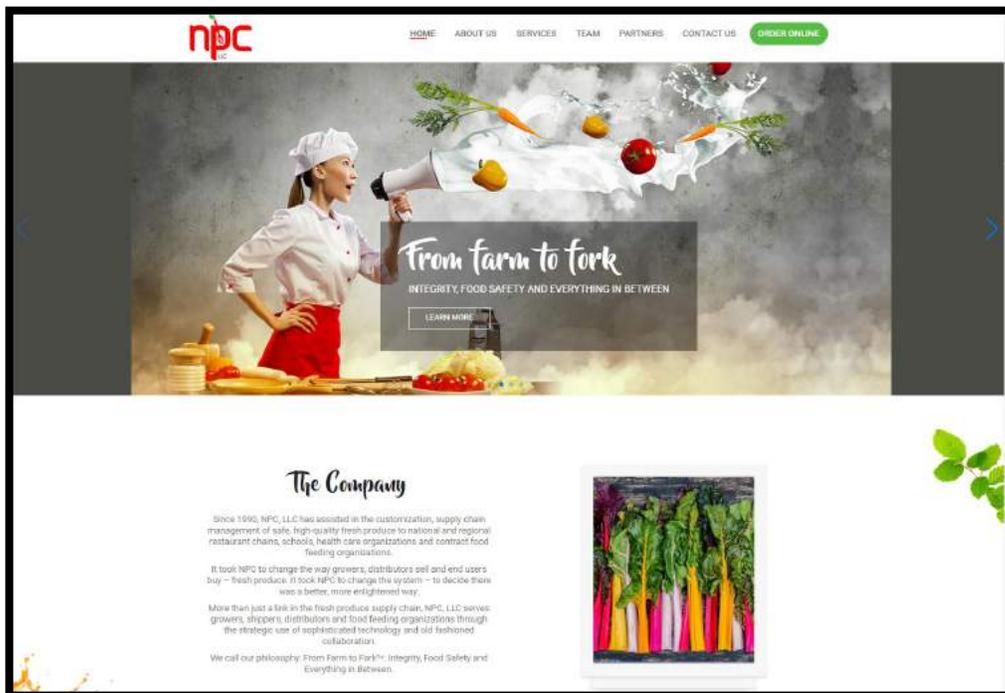
MARKET OUTLOOK

[National Produce Consultants launches website](#)

“National Produce Consultants, a Plano, Texas-based firm, has launched a [new website](#).

The site features new branding, updated vision and mission statements, and a mobile app, according to the company.

National Produce Consultants’ mission is, “to give clients more control by providing tailored, sustainable, supply chain solutions. We achieve this through proven talent, technology, and a commitment to integrity,” according to the company. It plans to launch a web-ordering platform later this year to complement its [current user interface](#).”



[Link To Story](#)

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,