

## MARKET ALERT



January 27, 2023

**Herbs** : The cooler weather continues to impact all herbs coming from Mexico and Colombia. Expect mint, oregano, and rosemary quality and supply challenges from all growing regions. Weather conditions, lower yields, fewer acres, and high demand are expected to continue through mid-February. Labor shortages have affected Mexican production.

**Chili Peppers & Tomatillos** : Prices for Chili Peppers are mostly trending down this week but prices for Jalapeno and Serrano Peppers are still elevated. Supplies out of Florida are tighter than normal. Production out of Mexico is currently holding its own. Look for the market to improve in 3 weeks.

**Cucumbers** : Prices for English Cucumbers are trending up this week. Persian Cucumber pricing is stable. Slicing Cucumbers are trending down. Slicing Cucumbers are currently tighter than normal. Honduras, Florida and Mexico are all producing lower volumes right now. Growers expect a tighter market until at least the second week of March. English Cucumbers are basically in the same situation as Slicing Cucumber right now too.

**Corn** : Prices for Corn are mostly stable this week but still elevated. No real change to recent updates. Florida & Mexico is behind due to last season's hurricane activity and recent cool weather. Growers are expecting the market to remain tight for the next few weeks. Production out of Mexico is gradually picking up.

**Strawberries** : Prices for Strawberries are trending up this week. Texas, Mexico and Florida are seeing less volumes due to recent weather events and cool temperatures. Growers are expecting tight supplies during the unforeseen future. Hopefully the weather cooperates going forward. The Valentine's Day holiday demands are just around the corner.

**Raspberries** : Prices for Raspberries are trending up this week. Prices are at very high levels. Cool weather and rain have impacted volumes. Growers are expecting to increase going forward. Some warm weather would be a great help too.

**Green Onions** : Supplies have improved this week. Market pricing will also be better for next week. Green onions are coming from Mexico at this time. Low yields have been caused by cold temperatures in Mexico. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$20.13- \$21.15).

**Asparagus, Beans & Peas** : These products are escalated on both coasts this week as supply remains tight from the majority of growing regions. Peru is winding down and MX is ramping up. Quality is fair.

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**Melons :** We were notified this past weekend to anticipate limited supplies over the next four weeks. Yields are down significantly due to fluctuating weather patterns (hot, cold, rain, wind, etc) over the past month which has caused inconsistencies with pollination leading to poor fruit sets. We believe, with already limited volume during this middle timeframe of the season, that even further decreases in supply will keep the market at higher levels over the coming weeks. Relief will most likely be seen in Florida with arrivals the week of Feb 27 and other ports approximately Mar 9. Current cantaloupe arrivals are mostly regular cartons (9/12/15s) with very few jumbos showing. This sizing profile is a direct reflection to what was described above (cooler weather prohibiting sizing). We expect this pattern to continue. Quality remains consistent with mostly solid external characteristics (showing slightly greener caste currently due to overcast days) while brix levels are holding in the 11-14% range. Honeydews remain extremely short in all ports preventing additional sales to non-contract business. Sizing has been mostly 5/5Js with some 6s and no 8s. Flexibility of sizing and advanced ordering may be required over the next few weeks if necessary at time of shipping.

**Cauliflower :** Supplies firmed up this week. Market pricing has also increased compared to last week. Current supplies are coming from Yuma AZ, Santa Maria CA, and Mexico. We are expecting for supplies to remain short for next week. Better availability on small size Cauliflower. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$18.60 - \$19.55).

**Celery :** Supplies have improved this week. Quality is also improving. Supplies are currently coming from Oxnard CA and Yuma AZ. Market is expected to continue improving. Supplies are expected to continue improving the next few weeks. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$32.38- \$33.60)

**Mushrooms :** The mushroom industry continues with a shortage of labor, as well as cost inflation increases in raw materials. Specifically corrugated cardboard and packaging materials. Additionally, the price increases in freights nationally have greatly impacted cost to mushroom growers. Pricing on mushrooms must increase at this time due to Labor, Transportation, and packaging. Due to uncontrollable rise in cost of imported Shitake logs from China. Shitake mushrooms supplies will be short, prices will be changing almost weekly. Long delays to unload shipments at the ports have caused some interruptions with supplies. This is caused by labor shortage and limited freight availability.