



MARKET OUTLOOK

October 11, 2019

WEATHER UPDATE

Salinas— Sunny to partly cloudy next week with highs in the 70s and lows in the upper 40s. **Oxnard**— Sunny next week with highs in the mid-70s and lows in the 50s. **Mexico (Culiacan)**— Sunny to partly cloudy next week with a chance for isolated thunderstorms this weekend. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the 70s. **Florida, Southern**— Cloudy next week with chances of scattered thunderstorms throughout the week. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the 70s. **Idaho**— Sunny to partly cloudy next week with a slight chance of rain showers next Saturday. Highs in the lower 60s and lows in the 20s.

TRANSPORTATION

The National Diesel Average has been recorded at \$3.047 down \$0.019 a gal from last week and down \$0.333 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 in good supply in most of the country, however there is slight shortages in Eastern North Carolina.

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MARKET ALERT

BLACKBERRIES

BROCCOLI

CAULIFLOWER

ICEBERG LETTUCE

POTATOES

ROMAINE

SNOW & SNAP PEAS

STRAWBERRIES

COMMODITIES ON THE RADAR:

Cantaloupes / Honeydews/
Limes



MARKET OUTLOOK

Apples



The market is steady this week. New crop Washington MFC Gala, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, and Golden Delicious Apples are available. New crop Washington Fuji stocks are limited. Quality is excellent.



Asparagus



West coast market is up due to the lack of MX product and the east coast is on the lower side. Supplies out of Peru have steady volume which should continue to improve as we move along in October. Quality is good.



Avocados



Avocado markets are currently split, depending on size. 48's and larger are steady to stronger, while 60's and smaller are steady to weaker. The current size curve is weighted towards the smaller fruit and as big fruit begins to disappear those users will move down sizes to get covered. The new crop is still very clean and #2 fruit is still around 5% of the total pack out. At this point 90% of the avocados are coming from MX, and no new fruit is being sent from Chile or Peru.



Bananas



The banana markets remain steady this week. Good supplies continue with good quality. Plantains remain limited this week. Expect market to remain steady going into next week.



Berries



MARKET ALERT: Blackberries are very tight right now with prices increasing as expected. Mexico's production was impacted by the recent tropical storm. California is seeing their normal reduction in production. Unless demands drop, look for prices to stay higher for at least the next few weeks.

MARKET ALERT



Blueberries: Product coming from many areas right now. Imports are coming in out of LA, Philadelphia, Miami & McAllen. Domestic production is declining in the North West. Production is coming out of Oxnard too. Prices are increasing slightly with supplies expected to remain tight.

Raspberries: The raspberry market is trying to firm up due to the tighter market on strawberries and blackberries. Most of the production is out of Mexico. Growers are expecting better supplies over the next few weeks.





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Broccoli



MARKET ALERT



Supplies will be limited for the next few weeks. Fair quality at the time of harvest has resulted in low yields. Growers are still trying to work through hollow core and pin rot. Growers will be holding distributors to weekly averages. Prices are escalated this week.

Brussels Sprouts



The market remains steady this week with good supplies this week. Good quality is being reported by multiple growers. The market is expected to remain steady going into next week.

Cauliflower



MARKET ALERT



Supplies are very limited this week. Weather has affected this market with unusual weather & big swings in temps. Some fields were started early due to warm weather, others are slow to start with rain & cold temps. Expect pricing to be escalated this week.

Cantaloupes



ON THE RADAR: Cantaloupe production has dropped significantly over the past week. Some growers have either concluded their season or will be finishing by this week. Cooler temps continue to affect the maturation of the melons which has been messing with the daily projection numbers leaving inventories very thin. Sizing, with the cooler weather, would typically be producing smaller sizes but with the Caribbean Gold variety being used the melons are still sizing as 9s is the predominant size being harvested. Small fruit, especially 12s, could find themselves in a limited position.

Carrots



With cooler temperatures Bakersfield carrots are improving quality. Supply is steady.

Celery



Steady supplies continue with celery this week. Growers continue to report excellent to good quality. Some growers reporting heavier volume on larger sized 24's. Expect market to be steady going into next week.

Corn



The market out of California and Colorado is steady. Production in the North East is declining with production increasing out of Georgia. Florida's production should start in a week or two.



MARKET OUTLOOK

Cucumbers



Mexican cucumbers are facing quality and pricing challenges from last weeks tropical storm. Supplies out of the East are steady and quality has improved over the last week or two.

Eggplant



Good supplies on eggplant this week. Mexico is facing storm related quality and availability challenges. CA is coming along with better supplies. Quality is good. Supplies out of the East are stable with good quality.

Grapes



Markets should remain steady & continue through October at these levels. Allison's will begin in about 10 days, with a higher FOB to start. Movement has been steady for the last 2-3 weeks. Quality & condition have been good. Autumn King is the main variety as most other varieties are either finished or have been put into storage for later sales. Markets will start to go up as individual growers will be in control depending on how long they can hold their fruit. Some green growers are keeping the price the same as they do not want to risk holding the fruit & would like to just keep it moving & get out in November.

Green Beans



With regional/local programs wrapped up & GA's supply on the light side, green beans have tightened up quickly in the East. GA's new crops have been affected by heat with yields on early plantings down as much as 50%. With no additional weather issues, they should be back into more normal volumes in 2-3 weeks. Beans continue to be very snug in the West. Coastal CA's production remains limited but is expected to go through October if weather permits. Baja supplies are currently on the light side as well. Look for the CA desert to begin in the next week or so and Mainland Mexico farms to come onboard by November 1st.

Herbs



Chervil continues to be limited this week due to quality issues. All other herbs are expected to remain steady with good quality.

Honeydews



ON THE RADAR: Honeydew supplies have quickly moved to an almost demand exceeds supply situation. Less overall honeydews were planted this summer in the Westside region & combined with a few larger growers from the Sacramento area choosing not to plant honeydews at all this year which has really shortened the late deal. Sizing should fall primarily in the mid (6s) to smaller (8s) sizes with large fruit being short in CA. AZ production has started in a small way so far after dealing with rains (even hail) in some growing areas two weeks ago. We are awaiting reports on how fields are responding as production increases. There is concern of damage which would seriously impact the late October & November portions of the melon deal once CA finishes.

MARKET OUTLOOK



MARKET ALERT

QUALITY



SUPPLY



Iceberg



Very light supplies this week on iceberg lettuce. Weather has affected this market as well, due to the unusual weather. Supplies are expected to be light for the next two weeks. We are hoping with the start of the new region on Huron supplies will improve. Growers will be holding distributors to weekly averages. Prices are escalated this week and close to our caps. (**Alert includes all salad blends**)

QUALITY



SUPPLY



Kale



Market remain steady this week. Good supplies continue, along with good quality which has been reported by multiple growers. Expect the market to remain steady going into next week.

MARKET ALERT

QUALITY



SUPPLY



Leaf



MARKET ALERT- Romaine: Very light supplies on the romaine market as well. Weather is the main cause. Warm weather caused some quality issues that affected supplies. Growers will be holding distributors to weekly averages. Prices are escalated this week. (**Alert includes romaine hearts, chopped romaine and salad blends**)

Green Leaf/ Red Leaf/ Butter (Boston) Lettuce: Supplies are a bit lower on the leaf lettuce this week. Quality is being reported as fair. Still reports of some fringe/ wind burn on the outer leaves. The markets are expected to be steady to higher going into next week.

QUALITY



SUPPLY



Tender Leaf



The tender leaf market is expected to stay strong for another week. Growers are reporting that the high temperatures and rain from a few weeks ago has impacted production and quality.

QUALITY



SUPPLY



Lemons & Limes



ON THE RADAR: LIMES – The market continues to tank on small fruit & slowly come down on larger fruit. 110 & 150 are still not even being quoted on USDA although the markets are anywhere between \$25&\$34 depending on COO, condition, etc. Everything else is under \$20 FOB. Thankfully the situation is improving, although there are talks of concern the market could bounce back next month since fruit was over picked last month. Weather remains clear.

LEMONS: Lemons are pretty steady from last week as well with most choice fruit in the high \$20s, maxing around \$32 on big fruit while small fruit is touching \$19. Fancy grade is anywhere from \$22-32 with bigger fruit at the premium. Steady market here.



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Onions



The market remains steady. FOBs remain around \$7 on jbos ranging to \$9.50 on supers. Whites remain around \$12 with reds hovering around \$6-7. Quality, supply and demand are all strong and steady rolling out of the ID/OR region.

Onions, Green



The green onion market remains steady this week. Seeing good demand along with good supplies. Quality is good. Expect the markets to remain steady going into next week.

Oranges



Oranges remain steady and promotable with most choice hovering around \$12, smaller fruit up to \$19 and fancy hovering around \$13/14 with smaller fruit touching \$20. Smaller size fruit remains tight and quality is fair. California navels are expected to start by the end of this month.

Pears



Barts are now available with sizes peaking on 100/110/120ct. California Anjou's are still available - there will be no gap between CA and New Crop. New crop Washington D'Anjou harvesting will begin in September. Quality is excellent.

Peppers, Bell



The Green Bell market is steady out of the East and is trying to work up somewhat in the West. Color peppers are more reasonably priced compared to the last month or so. Still, prices and availability on color pepper from the West is showing some strength recently.

Peppers, Chili



Like last week, the market remains steady. Steady supplies out of the East. GA & FL are coming along with supplies .Quality is good . Out to the West, steady supplies continue out of Mexico and California. Quality is good.



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Pineapples



The market is steady this week. Good availability continues with good quality. Sizing will be trending large for the next few weeks. Expect the market to remain steady going into next week.

MARKET ALERT



Potatoes



Temps have officially tanked. Most of the growing regions hit as low as 1 degree recently. The frost is causing significant damage to the remaining crop yet to be harvested. Harvesting was already interrupted before the temps dropped due to recent rain in the area. There was still quite a good number of spuds in the ground when the freeze hit which could definitely mean quite a bit of acreage lost. Yields were already of concern at the beginning of harvest, so this only worsens the situation. The true situation will not be known until growers get back into the fields & are able to fully evaluate. Markets as of today are about \$15 on bid spuds, down to \$9 on the small stuff. We'll continue to keep you updated.

MARKET ALERT



Snow Peas &

Sugar Snap Peas



Volumes are extremely limited due to weather issues in the growing regions. Expect pro-rates around 50%. Market are steadily rising. Expect escalated pricing.

Squash



Just like cucumbers, soft squash is facing storm related quality and supply challenges out of Mexico. All due to the recent tropical storm. Supplies out of the East has been trying to tighten up due to cooler weather in the region. We could begin to see some product out of Plant City as early as late next week .

Strawberries



MARKET ALERT



Quality and sizing challenges have been reported by some end users. This is due to the heat from a few weeks ago. Growers are reporting that quality and sizing is improving each day going forward. Mexico has started shipping strawberries in a small way. Expect volume to increase out of that region as production ramps up.

Tomatoes



The Western and Mexican market has tightened up due to heat and seasonal production ending in many growing areas. Western supply is available out of CA for a few more weeks and in Mexico where more growers will break into fall acreage later this month. The Eastern market is experiencing the same tight supplies as the West. Florida is expected to start production in November.



MARKET OUTLOOK

Possible record-low October temperatures across Idaho could hurt local crops

The Idaho Farm Bureau Federation says onions, dry beans, sweet corn and potatoes could all be affected by the current cold spell.

BOISE, Idaho — Less than two weeks into October and already parts of Idaho are dealing with snow and very low temperatures.

According to the National Weather Service, Central Idaho and the Northern Panhandle got some light snowfall on Wednesday, while Eastern Idaho saw anywhere from a light dusting to several inches. Other regions across the state could see record-low temperatures.

Bill Wojcik, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, said a low pressure system from Canada is causing the high winds, low temperatures and snow making an early visit to our region. "This is an unusual system we've been talking about for a couple of days," he said. "Eastern Oregon and western Idaho – most locations – are going to record and near-record temperatures. "Normally our high temperature for Boise is close to 70 degrees – so upper 60s. Today [Wednesday] we're only looking for a high of maybe 50," Wojcik continued.

That's about 20 degrees below average for the Treasure Valley at this time of year. The current record low for Boise in October is 26 degrees, which was set back in 1985. Forecasts predict Boise could break that record and hit 25 degrees early Thursday morning. Wednesday's storm that dropped snow in eastern Idaho forced the closure of a portion of Interstate 15 from Dubois to the Montana border.

The Idaho Transportation Department says road closures aren't unusual with winter conditions, but crews are prepped and work to keep roads open as much as they can. "During last year's winter season we maintained a 86 percent mobility," said ITD spokesman Adam Rush. "That means our highways were free of snow and ice 86 percent of the time." It's important for drivers to keep in mind while traveling during winter months that just because one part of Idaho has clear weather doesn't mean that's the same everywhere. "So Idaho – we have a variety of terrain here," Rush said. "One area, maybe the highways are dry, free of snow, free of precipitation and other locations here in Idaho may have an active snowstorm."

With harvest season in Idaho still underway, the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation says there are some concerns when it comes to crops. "I've talked to quite a few farmers and people involved with the industry today and what I'm hearing is there's a big rush, they're really pushing it, guys are really hitting it about as hard as they can go to get their crops in," said Farm Bureau spokesman Sean Ellis. As far as the Treasure Valley area in concerned, there are three major crops that could be affected by the drastic temperature change: onions, dry beans and sweet corn. According to Ellis, there are about 4,000 to 5,000 acres of onions still left to harvest in the region. Onions can survive in as low as 27-degree weather for a few hours. But longer exposure, or even colder temperatures, put the onion crops in danger. "Idaho produces the majority of the world's sweet corn seed in the Canyon County area," Ellis said. Sweet corn seed is very vulnerable to frost and so far, only about 55 percent of Idaho's crop has been harvested. Ellis says a lot of Treasure Valley farmers are worried.

As for dry beans, the Farm Bureau reports 93 percent of the crop is complete, but the remainder is waiting in windrows to dry out. So any snow or rain could hurt the rest of the beans.

Then there's Idaho's most famous crop: potatoes. "There's some significant concern among potato farmers right now about what this cold might bring," Ellis said. "Neighbors are coming out of the woodwork to try and help them save the crop. Farmers and non-farmers, so you can say there's a lot of effort right now in Eastern Idaho to try and get the potato crop in and minimize the damage."

Wojcik said the current October cold spell doesn't forecast anything about the coming winter. In fact, the Climate Prediction Center is expecting normal precipitation levels and slightly above-average temperatures.

SOURCE: <https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/local/weather-record-low-temperatures-idaho-october-snow-early-cold-spell-affects-roads-crops/277-8bc7da01-da92-4f79-b7e9-1537aca50fb7>

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. Have a great week!

Your Dedicated NPC, LLC Staff

