



WEATHER UPDATE

Yuma - Sunny to partly cloudy with highs in the 70s and lows in the 40s for the upcoming week. **Oxnard** - Sunny to partly cloudy for the upcoming week with highs in the 60s and lows in the 50s. **Mexico (Culiacan)**- Sunny to partly cloudy; highs in the 80s and lows in the 50s. **Florida, Southern**– Partly cloudy with rain over the weekend, highs in the 70s and lows in the 50s. **Idaho** - Partly cloudy for the week; highs in the 30s and lows in the 20s and teens!

TRANSPORTATION

The National Diesel Average has been recorded at \$3.161 down \$0.046 a gal from last week and up **\$0.251** 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 short in ID, OR & WA.**

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MARKET ALERT

Strawberries

Tomatoes

Celery

Broccoli

Cauliflower

Iceberg

Romaine/Leaf

MARKET OUTLOOK



Apples



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Washington is down on volumes with Reds, Golds and Fujis and considerably down on Galas (15% down) and an amazing 30% down on gr smiths. Volume will be confirmed as the State continue to harvest in the Month of October. Reds and Golds are down significant due to growers cutting their orchards down to replant Honneys, Pinks, Organics, Jazz, Lady Alice, etc. Galas and Gr Smiths - due to such a large crop last season, trees did not respond back - some will say these apples are alternate bearing. Quality of the new Crop is very good with size profile 2 to 3 sizes larger than last year. (small sizes will be limited).

Asparagus



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Grass demand is going up for the holidays, but there will be enough supply. Pricing will probably increase but we don't foresee anything dramatic. Quality is good across the board.

Avocados



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

The demand for avocados has slowed since the record-breaking 68 million pounds were shipped a few weeks ago after the strike in Mexico. As a result, avocados are ready to be promoted again with plentiful supply. Sizing remains on the larger size for the time being. Rain is forecasted for the growing region later this week, which should result in production slowing down. For the following weeks, Holidays might slow down harvesting stabilizing supply demand.

Bananas



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Banana quality has come back in line with expected quality for this time of year. Supplies are good and should remain steady for the remainder of the year.

Berries



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Blackberries & Raspberries: Supplies are a struggle. Cold, rainy conditions may affect yields and influence quality. **MEXICO-** Raspberries in general are looking good, though they are becoming increasingly shorter in the market place. Blackberries look great despite a few rough days last week during the rain event. **Blueberries:** Supplies are a struggle. Pricing is starting to move up. Oxnard is anticipating a slow start, but the crop looks great heading into the 2019 harvest season. Argentina season winding down. Meanwhile, the Chilean blueberry crops and quality are looking good, and vessels are beginning to arrive. Mexican Blueberry quality: Watch for rain damage and fruit rot from some domestic lots.

MARKET OUTLOOK

Broccoli



MARKET ALERT

QUALITY



SUPPLY



Broccoli supplies are showing some signs of improvement. There is better availability with supplies for Distributors and Growers. Market is trying to recuperate, with the current weather conditions expect markets to stay the same for two more weeks. Quality is reported only fair at best with some light coloring on the heads.

Brussels Sprouts



QUALITY



SUPPLY



Brussel sprout supplies are lower than expected. Current weather conditions are not helping production keep up with the demand. Expect markets and supplies to be short for the next few weeks.

Cauliflower



MARKET ALERT

QUALITY



SUPPLY



Cauliflower supplies are almost back to normal. We have better availability this week, prices are lower compared to last week. This also includes the Cauliflower Florets.

Cantaloupes



QUALITY



SUPPLY



Cantaloupe production has picked up some this week primarily with 9s but supply will again drastic decrease after next week. This reduction in volume is partly planned, due to the holidays, but the Zacapa valley has also been battling whitefly during its first cycle which is the primary cause for the reduced volumes the first month of the offshore season. Harvesting in the Zacapa valley goes into a scheduled moratorium the first week of January until late February to help combat the whitefly. Classic Guatemala will be moving to its second farm in Jicaro at that time.

Carrots



QUALITY



SUPPLY



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.

MARKET ALERT

Celery



QUALITY



SUPPLY



Celery supplies are still short. Product is still coming from Oxnard CA, we are waiting for the Imperial Valley /Yuma AZ new growing region to start. Supplies will be tight for another week.

Corn



QUALITY



SUPPLY



Corn continues to improve in regards to supply, cost, and quality with majority out of FL and Nogales.

MARKET OUTLOOK



Cucumbers



Although Sinaloa farms have received a little rain, cucumber production out of Mexico continues to increase daily with strong quality on the fruit. However, cooler weather has slowed down South FL's production so there's less product available in the East. Despite the cold, quality continues to be nice. Honduras growers are bringing a little product in, but volume will remain on the light side until after the first of the year.

Eggplant



Eggplant volume is steady along with pricing holding well. Florida coming on a bit more and demand has let up since the holiday. Seeing good quality.

Grapes



Currently, the Allison variety, is the latest red seedless variety being harvested. These have been very consistent and should get us through Christmas with little issue. Autumn Kings are still having good arrivals and we will definitely get another two weeks of shipping with this variety. The Autumn Royal market is steady and we should have supplies until the first of the year.

Green Beans



Florida's green bean supply is adequate to meet this week's pre-holiday demand spike and quality is good. Meanwhile, Mainland Mexico production continues to see stronger numbers as growers move deeper into harvests.

Herbs



Quality and supply is looking good across the board. Sage and rosemary a slightly short and struggling on quality but holding steady.

Honeydews



Honeydews will probably end up being the tighter size of the two commodities especially on 6/8s. Current production has been leaning more to the 4/5s which has left smaller fruit in very high demand. Quality on the dewes has also been exceptional with very clean fruit which has been very well received after the late domestic and Mexican deals. Brix levels are mostly 10-13% with very good flavor.

MARKET OUTLOOK



Iceberg

MARKET ALERT



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

The increased demand for Iceberg lettuce has created very limited supplies. Huge demand from processors and distributors. We are hoping with the Romaine cleared for now from Yuma AZ the prices will decrease some. The cold weather is also keeping markets from improving, expect higher markets until the end of the month.

Kale



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

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

Leaf



MARKET ALERT

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Romaine - Romaine supplies have improved from previous weeks. Expect markets to continue to improve, weather is still a factor. Prices and supplies will continue to improve if the weather holds up. Green Leaf/ Red Leaf and Boston/Butter Lettuce- With the increased demand for Green Leaf, Butter Lettuce and Red Leaf Lettuce the supplies cannot keep up with the demand. Low supplies and high markets are expected to last until the end of the month.

Tender Leaf



MARKET ALERT

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Arugula, Parsley, Kale Blends, Spring Mix, and Spinach - Quality is fair, due to cold weather preventing the product from sizing up. Suppliers are watching averages.

Lemons & Limes



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Lemons - Suppliers are improving, currently in district 3 with district 1 starting to come on. Lemons remain a little pricey but within range. FOBS on fancy between \$25 and \$38 from small to big, the spread with choice is about \$2 on the smaller fruit, but up to \$10 on bigger fruit. -Limes—Limes are in good supply with a steady market right now, but expected to rise this month on smaller fruit.



MARKET OUTLOOK

Onions



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Nothing has changed here! The market has been pretty stable over the last week. It is equally as cheap as it has been. The only thing that's changing is the shift as the retailer's demand comes in for the holidays. Seeing good quality and supply across the board. Trucks are tight and freight is up.

Oranges



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

California Navels are looking great with the market peaking on 72s and smaller. Seeing good supply and quality. Florida Navels will run until mid-December. FOBs on most sizes between \$11 and \$20 with bigs and tinys slightly above and below.

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 

Florida's pepper supply has improved as a few more growers have gotten up and running with Winter crops. Growers on the East Coast side of the state were expecting a big start, but have been a little slow to get into volume. With most growers in crown picks, harvests are heavier to jumbos with very few offgrades available. Overall quality from current production areas (Palmetto, Immokalee and the East Coast) is mostly good. In the West, CA is winding down quickly with very little volume and weak quality. Fortunately, Mainland Mexico is producing more peppers despite a gain-stall-gain-stall pattern. Quality from early picks has been outstanding with good color, strong walls, and healthy cavities.

Peppers, Jalapenos



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

With various growing areas in Mexico suffering crop loss, re-planting, and experiencing cold weather, the chili pepper situation remains critical. Supply will remain tough until mid-January, when re-planted crops come to maturity. Unfortunately, FL farms don't have much product to help with supply. Tomatillos and serranos have become extremely difficult to find.

Pineapples



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Pineapple supply remains stable and sizing is trending towards the 7/8 sizes. Market pricing is on the rise on the especially on the larger sizes.

MARKET OUTLOOK



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Potatoes

The market remains steady for the most part across all sizes and grades on norkotahs with burbanks about a buck up. Freight is up as trucks are short. Seeing good quality and supply across the board.



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Squash

With squash being sensitive to recent cold weather, availability is down this week. Both Mexico and Florida's crops have lightened up from the recent cooler temps. Volume will pick up as the weather warms, but it may be another 7-10 days before we see a significant change. Quality is challenging on yellow (especially in FL), but okay on zucchini.



MARKET ALERT

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Strawberries

Winter has been a disaster so far. Real harvesting volumes aren't expected for another 3 weeks. Supplies continue to be short and the market remains in a demand exceeds supply scenario. Pricing are high. Growers are focusing on covering contracts and their regular participating distributors. Seeing some prorates of 50% or more depending on the grower and the growing area. It is imperative that distributors have orders pre-booked in advance to help eliminate or decrease any possible pro-rates. Continuous rains in the California and Florida growing areas are continuing to hamper supplies as growers shift from harvesting to crop maintenance, which includes stripping some fields. Florida is expecting more thunderstorms over the weekend, and growers are stating they won't be harvesting again until Monday. Quality has been greatly affected by the rains from previous weeks. Expect to see some rain damage, bruising, pin rot under the calyx, and white shoulders. The struggles with extremely low volumes out of CA and FL has created a negative atmosphere in Mexico in regards to available fruit crossing the border into the US. Mexico growers asking for premium prices, and most fruit is staying below the border. Sizing remains very small.



MARKET ALERT

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Tomatoes

Palmetto/Ruskin growers are finishing up any remaining crown picks on round tomatoes this week and will be moving into 2nd and 3rd picks for the remainder of the season. Quality has remained nice on crown picks, but there have been reports of several concerns (including decay) with fruit from later harvests. Production has mostly transitioned to the Naples/Immokalee area where quality is nice, but size is short. Look for volume to remain mostly steady until after Jan 1st when weather patterns generally warm up and more southern FL farms come into Winter crops. Roma availability continues to be light, while grape tomato numbers have been steady. Baja and Eastern Mexico continue to harvest round and roma tomatoes but are definitely winding down. Slow to start, West Mexico farms have finally gotten into new roma crops and will see volume increase weekly as more growers get into the mix. Round tomato production is still limited out of Mainland Mexico but gradual increases are expected throughout the month. Baja's grape tomato shipments are down to the nitty gritty and Nogales shippers saw a slow-down due to cool weather, keeping things snug this week. As with other tomato varieties, more growers will be starting up soon and supply should begin to build by the New Year.





[FDA finds E. coli in irrigation reservoir, narrows romaine advisory](#)

“The Food and Drug Administration has named Adam Bros. Farm in Santa Barbara County as one potential source of the E. coli outbreak linked to romaine — but it cautions that the finding does not explain all the illnesses in the outbreak.

Investigators found E. coli in the sediment of an irrigation reservoir used by Adam Bros. Farm, but the FDA continues to search for other sources of contaminated product.

“While the analysis of the strain found in the people who got ill and the sediment in one of this farm’s water sources is a genetic match, our traceback work suggests that additional romaine lettuce shipped from other farms could also likely be implicated in the outbreak,” FDA commissioner Scott Gottlieb and deputy commissioner Frank Yiannas said in a statement. “Therefore, the water from the reservoir on this single farm doesn’t fully explain what the common source of the contamination (is). We are continuing to investigate what commonalities there could be from multiple farms in the region that could explain this finding in the water and potentially the ultimate source of the outbreak.” The investigation has produced records from five restaurants in four states, with those restaurants sourcing from 11 distributors, nine growers and eight farms, according to the FDA.

Currently, there is no one company that is a part of all the supply chains being investigated. “This indicates that although we have identified a positive sample from one farm to date, the outbreak may not be explained by a single farm, grower, harvester or distributor,” Gottlieb and Yiannas said.

Though the search continues, the FDA has narrowed its consumer advisory. Now the counties associated with the outbreak are Santa Barbara, Monterey and San Benito.”

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,



Your Dedicated NPC, LLC Staff