





# MARKET OUTLOOK

## Apples



### SUPPLY

FAIR

### QUALITY

GOOD

With less than 100 million boxes, Washington state's crop is the smallest since 2005. The average Washington apple crop is more than 120 million. Their low volume is a significant issue for growers in Washington State. There is a lack of supplies, a high demand, and obviously regional supplies exist. Michigan and New York both have good crops, so it's about how WA can stay in for as long as possible and take advantage of the various varieties that have been grown. The cost of production labor has skyrocketed. During and after the Covid outbreak, whatever domestic labor was available has lost interest in working. Despite the high cost of the national H-2A immigrant labor program, many growers cannot afford to both hire or not hire H-2A workers.

## Asparagus



### SUPPLY

FAIR

### QUALITY

GOOD

**RADAR** The Caborca season will likely begin in the middle of January or even February, depending on the weather. Light supplies will be available from Mexico until the end of January, when Sonora will begin. Market has become extremely active despite the production has slowed down in the West coast. On the East coast, Peruvian production is declining due to the seasonality. Labor strikes and logistical delays have been brought on by the political turmoil in Peru. Markets have begun to react because of seasonality and the political turmoil in Peru.

## Avocados



### SUPPLY

GOOD

### QUALITY

GOOD

As Aventajada fruit matures, dry matter increases, and holding temperatures should be set at 42 degrees. USDA average pricing has been steady for past 8 weeks. As a result of market's stability, more promotions have been made. The most notable adjustment is the shift in the size curve, a higher percentage of extra-large fruit is coming off the trees and is expected to last several weeks. The upcoming Christmas and New Year's Ads will help move the extra volume, as well as a good indicator for what's in store for the Super Bowl pull.

## Bananas



### SUPPLY

GOOD

### QUALITY

GOOD

Banana is showing good quality and supply is expecting to remain stable through the remainder of the year. It has gotten a little cooler in the tropics, which is typical for this time of year. Be sure to adhere to best practices when handling bananas, even though quality remain strong.

## Beans



### SUPPLY

FAIR

### QUALITY

GOOD

**Green Beans:** Due to the near-freezing temperatures this week, Florida production has slowed down on the East coast. On the West coast, the market is stable, and volume is good.

**Snow Peas:** Snow peas from Mexico are good, and supplies from California are improving. Guatemala production continues to improve.

# MARKET OUTLOOK



**MARKET ALERT**

**Berries**



SUPPLY  
GOOD  
QUALITY  
GOOD

**Blackberries:** Prices for Blackberries are trending slightly up this week. Growers are forecasting tight supplies until the front end of February.

**Blueberries:** Prices for Blueberries are trending slightly up this week. Growers are currently reporting decent supplies. Growers are forecasting tighter supplies around mid-February.

**Raspberries:** **ALERT** Prices for Raspberries are trending up this week. Growers are forecasting tight supplies until the front end of February. Supply and Quality are both Fair.

**MARKET ALERT**

**Broccoli**



SUPPLY  
FAIR  
QUALITY  
FAIR

Supplies continue to be limited. Demand has slowed down for Broccoli. Market pricing continues to remain strong. Cold weather has affected the growth on the Broccoli crowns. Current supplies are coming from Yuma, Santa Maria, and Mexico. Better supplies are expected to be available next week. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$52.00 - \$53.00)

**Brussels Sprouts**



SUPPLY  
GOOD  
QUALITY  
GOOD

Supplies are good this week. Quality is said to have improved. Demand has remain steady. Volume has improved out of Mexico. Steady demand is expected for the next few weeks. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$28.85 - \$29.50)

**Cabbages**



SUPPLY  
GOOD  
QUALITY  
GOOD

Supplies are much better for this week. Growers are reporting better yields at the time of harvest. Expect market pricing to improve further in the coming weeks. Product is coming from Yuma. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$18.00 - \$19.45)

**MARKET ALERT**

**Carrots**



SUPPLY  
GOOD  
QUALITY  
GOOD

The carrot crop has been jeopardized due to weather conditions. Peeled, jumbos, and cellos are the hardest hit. Fields are assessing the damage and predicting shortages for at least four weeks.

**Cantaloupes**



SUPPLY  
FAIR  
QUALITY  
GOOD

The market has begun to feel the effects of a drop in demand as we approach the holiday week. Sizing has remained consistent, with a good range of 9/12s and even some 15s. There aren't many jumbos, which results in lower yields and, ultimately, lower weekly production than anticipated. External quality has been good, with brix levels ranging from 10 to 13%.

# MARKET OUTLOOK

## MARKET ALERT

### Cauliflower



SUPPLY  
POOR  
QUALITY  
POOR

**EXTREME ALERT** Supplies will continue to be very limited this week. Demand has slowed down this week. Market pricing continues to remain strong. Cold weather has affected the growth on the Cauliflower crowns. Current supplies are coming from Yuma, Santa Maria, and Mexico. Better supplies are expected to be available next week. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$60.00 - \$61.00)

## MARKET ALERT

### Celery



SUPPLY  
POOR  
QUALITY  
POOR

**EXTREME ALERT** Supplies continue to be very light this week. Quality is currently reported to be only fair. Supplies are currently coming from Oxnard and Yuma. Market is expected to remain high. Salinas is finished for the season but yields in Oxnard are being impacted by a Fusarium disease. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$74.00 - \$76.00)

### Citrus



SUPPLY  
GOOD  
QUALITY  
GOOD

**Limes: RADAR** Quality and shelf life continue to deteriorate as the current production cycle winds down. Weather, including consistent rain events over the past few months, is also a major contributing factor. In response, pack-out yields on U.S. #1 quality fruit have declined, which is expected to impact market pricing in an upward swing as we move towards Q1 2023. Costs in Mexico continue to rise, adding pressure to U.S. market pricing. New production harvests will occur the second or third week of January. Yields are expected to plummet in response to weather-related trends and we will likely see a substantial pricing spike come January. In addition, supply chain disruptions in production are expected during the upcoming holiday season.

**Lemons:** California lemons are being picked in D1. Quality has been good. The appearance is picture perfect with bright yellow with a slivering tinge.

**Oranges:** Weather in California are favorable, with pleasant, cool days. The incredible flavor profile of California citrus so far indicates a great eating season. Navels displaying excellent natural color and increasing brix. While small fruit is peaking, values are in the 88s/113s, with 72s beginning to make volumes.

## MARKET ALERT

### Corn



SUPPLY  
FAIR  
QUALITY  
FAIR

**ALERT (Florida)** Prices for Corn out of Mexico are trending down as supplies are increasing. Prices for Corn out of Florida are trending up. Florida corn has been impacted by cool weather. Growers are reporting smaller than usual ears right now. As you are aware, the quality of the winter corn crop differs from that of the summer crop. This is the time of year to lower expectations a bit.

# MARKET OUTLOOK



**MARKET ALERT**

**Cucumbers**



SUPPLY  
GOOD  
QUALITY  
GOOD

**ALERT (Persian & English)** Prices for Persian and English Cucumbers are currently extremely elevated. Prices for Slicing Cucumbers are trending up this week but not at the same rate as Persian's and English Cucumbers. Growers are expecting Slicing Cucumber supplies to increase during the weeks to come. Look for Persian and English Cucumbers to be extremely tight during the next couple weeks.

**Eggplant**



SUPPLY  
FAIR  
QUALITY  
GOOD

Prices for Eggplant are trending up this week. Growers are expecting some uneven markets for the next few weeks.

**MARKET ALERT**

**Garlic**



SUPPLY  
FAIR  
QUALITY  
GOOD

Domestic garlic continues to remain tight. Harvest started late this season and growers are holding averages to try and minimized company buying heavy early in the season. Quality is good and the price is high.

**Ginger**



SUPPLY  
FAIR  
QUALITY  
GOOD

The market for imported ginger is active, and supplies are light.

**Grapes**



SUPPLY  
GOOD  
QUALITY  
GOOD

**RADAR** In the first two weeks of January, South American grape imports may be a little light. The early Chilean grape harvest is running behind schedule. Peruvian grape loadings have recently been delayed due to protests that have prevented workers from getting to farms and facilities to pick and pack. Arrivals have not yet been seriously disrupted. Anticipate some supply gaps by early January.

**MARKET ALERT**

**Herbs**



SUPPLY  
FAIR  
QUALITY  
FAIR

Weather has impacted all herbs coming from Mexico and Colombia. Expect quality and supply issues for mint, oregano, rosemary, and sage from all growing regions. Weather conditions, lower yields, fewer acres, and high demand will persist through mid to late January.

**Chives: ALERT** Weather continued to have an impact on both imported and domestic chervil production causing poor quality and/or shortages.

**Cilantro: ALERT** Supplies continue to be light. Quality will only be fair. Most growers will be shipping out of Oxnard and Imperial Valley. Cold temperatures have greatly affected yields and quality. (F.O.B. pricing for this week \$19.85 - \$20.65)

# MARKET OUTLOOK



## Honeydews



**SUPPLY**  
GOOD  
**QUALITY**  
GOOD

Honeydew production is still low. Crossings through Nogales have largely stopped, increasing demand for imported products in Florida. Most of the sizes have been 5/6s, with some 8s.

**MARKET ALERT**

## Iceberg



**SUPPLY**  
LIMITED  
**QUALITY**  
FAIR

**EXTREME ALERT** Supplies are showing signs of improvement. Overall quality has been reported as only fair at this time. Weights and quality are expected to be better next week. Expect markets to continue improving, we are seeing some relief in the markets. Growers are now harvesting in Yuma and Imperial Valley. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$52.00 - \$53.00)

## Kale



**SUPPLY**  
GOOD  
**QUALITY**  
GOOD

Supplies continue to be steady for next week. Demand is down on Green Kale for this week. Good quality has been reported at this time. Supplies should remain steady for a few weeks. Market pricing is improving. (F.O.B pricing for this week (F.O.B. pricing for this week \$11.65 - \$12.15)

**MARKET ALERT**

## Leaf



**SUPPLY**  
LIMITED  
**QUALITY**  
POOR

**Green & Red Leaf: ALERT (Red Leaf)** Supplies have improved this week. Quality will only be fair at this time. Expect to see occasional wind/Fringe burn. Market pricing has improved and not currently escalated. Markets are better this week compared to last week. Harvest is now coming from Imperial Valley, and Yuma. (Green Leaf F.O.B pricing for this week \$18.00 - \$19.45)(Red Leaf F.O.B pricing for this week \$25.00 - \$26.00)

**Romaine: ALERT** Supplies continue to improve. Romaine heads are returning to normal sizing. Markets are expected to continue improving, which will have an impact on market pricing. Expect the occasional epidermal peel and blister. Growers are now harvesting in Yuma and Imperial Valley. (Romaine F.O.B. pricing for this week \$25.00 - \$29.00) (Romaine Hearts F.O.B. pricing for this week \$43.00 - \$49.00)

**Tender Leaf:** Supplies have improved this week and are likely to continue to do so. Demand continues to be very good. Unusual cold temperatures slowed up yields. The market has returned to normal pricing. Growers are now harvesting in Yuma. (F.O.B. pricing for this week \$4.75 - \$5.15)

# MARKET OUTLOOK

**MARKET ALERT**

## Mushrooms



SUPPLY  
SHORT  
QUALITY  
FAIR

**Shitake Mushrooms: EXTREME ALERT** 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.

**EXTREME ALERT** 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.

## Onions



SUPPLY  
GOOD  
QUALITY  
GOOD

Onions are shipping out of Colorado, Idaho, Michigan, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. Quality is good. Demand is good on all colors. Market is strong. Super Colossal and Colossal Yellow onions continues to fetch a premium pricing due to the limited availability. Prices on Medium continues to be heavily discounted. Yields are down, as are acres planted, compared to the previous year. Trucks are starting to get tight and freight cost are rising. This will also have an impact on precut.

**MARKET ALERT**

## Onions Green



SUPPLY  
FAIR  
QUALITY  
FAIR

Supplies are limited for this week. Due to the limited availability, market pricing has increased. Green onions are coming from Mexico. Yields have been impacted by unusually cold temperatures. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$25.00 - \$26.00)

## Pears



SUPPLY  
GOOD  
QUALITY  
GOOD

The organic pear crop in the Pacific Northwest appears to be promising, with estimates indicating a volume increase over last year. Most organic varieties are seeing increased volume, which is encouraging in a year when much of Northwest tree fruit volume has been down. Sizing is looking to be two sizes smaller this year on summer pears (red and green Bartlett and, Starkrimson). The whole Northwest pear crop is estimated to be slightly up year-over-year, further strengthening the organic pear category.

**MARKET ALERT**

## Peppers Bell



SUPPLY  
FAIR  
QUALITY  
GOOD

**ALERT (Red & Yellow)** Prices for Green Bell Peppers are trending slightly up this week. Prices for Red Bell Peppers are down. Prices for Yellow Bell Peppers are up. Red and Yellow Bell Pepper Prices are still elevated. Production is coming out of Florida and Mexico. Growers are expecting volatile markets for the next few weeks.

**MARKET ALERT**

## Peppers Chili



SUPPLY  
FAIR  
QUALITY  
GOOD

Prices for Chili are mostly trending down this week. Prices for Serrano and Poblano Peppers are still elevated. Supplies remain tight out of Florida and Mexico. Growers are expecting volumes to pick up in the weeks to come.

# MARKET OUTLOOK

## Pineapples



### SUPPLY

FAIR

### QUALITY

GOOD

In the next few weeks, Pineapples are expected to start trending towards smaller sizes. The yield is improving and more 7ct and 8ct Pineapples are expected to be available. Quality is good with good brix level. Market is steady and demand is light.

### MARKET ALERT

## Potatoes



### SUPPLY

FAIR

### QUALITY

GOOD

Prices remain elevated as storage volume begins to dwindle. The market remains strong, and demand remains consistent. Limited volume on the larger sizes. Packer is trying to stretch their inventory until New Crop start. Precut potatoes will be impacted as well.

## Squash



### SUPPLY

FAIR

### QUALITY

GOOD

Prices for Zucchini Squash are stable this week. Prices for Yellow Squash are up. Cold weather in Florida and Mexico has tightened up the market. Look for improved supplies a week or 2 after the New Year's Holiday.

### MARKET ALERT

## Strawberries



### SUPPLY

POOR

### QUALITY

POOR

Prices for Strawberries are trending up this week. Supplies are tighter for Strawberries this week due to cold weather and rain in Florida and California. Supplies out of Mexico are steady. Growers are expecting weather related prices to remain high for the next few weeks.

### MARKET ALERT

## Tomatoes



### SUPPLY

BAD

### QUALITY

FAIR

**ALERT (Rounds)** Prices to 20 lb and 25 lb Round Tomatoes are trending down this week. Prices for Round Tomatoes are still elevated though. Prices for Grape and Cherry Tomatoes are stable. Prices for Roma tomatoes are up. The winter crop from Mexico and Florida is providing much-needed relief to the markets. Production is expected to increase going forward.

## Watermelons



### SUPPLY

FAIR

### QUALITY

GOOD

Supplies on Seedless and minis continue to be tight. Market will be very tight in December and January. Florida has light volumes. Northern Mexico is wrapping up and Southern Mexico will start up out of Edinburg and Nogales after the first of the year. Offshore watermelon is starting with light volume.



# MARKET OUTLOOK

## FARMER PREDICTS WORSE FOOD SHORTAGES, HIGHER PRICES IN 2023 AMID INFLATION, DROUGHT, INTERESTS RATE HIKES

By Teny Sahakian | Fox News | Published December 27, 2022 2:00am EST

Drought, supply chain shortages and the rising cost of doing business led to a difficult 2022 for American farmers, but 2023 could be even worse, a fourth-generation dairy farmer said.

"I definitely think we have a food security threat," Stephanie Nash, a Tennessee farmer and agriculture advocate told Fox News. "I believe 2023 is going to be rough. Worse than this year."

Food prices have been outpacing overall inflation in 2022 as November food prices showed a 10.6% increase compared to last year, while overall inflation hit 7.1%, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

A number of factors have contributed to rising food prices, including fertilizer and fuel shortages, extreme weather conditions and rising interest rates in an industry that relies on debt financing, Nash said.

"2022 was a really hard year," the 29-year-old said. "I think there's going to be a lot of shortages next year for sure."

"We're going to have a supply chain shortage, we're going to have an increase in our food [prices] at the grocery store," she added. "I don't think it's going to go down anytime soon, and I think Americans are really going to be hurting in their wallet."

Most U.S. farmers take out short-term, variable-rate loans each year to pay for everything from seeds and fertilizer to livestock and machinery, according to the Department of Agriculture. As a result, the Federal Reserve's aggressive interest rate increases from as low as 0% to as high as 4.25% has raised the cost of farm operations.

"You have family farmers and ranchers that can't pay their bills," Nash said. "You talk about loans — that's a big deal."

"Food costs are increasing, the overall production of our operation are increasing," she added. "We have to be able to get paid more to make it."

The farming sector's total interest expense is forecast to hit nearly \$26.5 billion this year, nearly 32% higher than last year, according to USDA data. Due to higher fertilizer, fuel and land costs, farmers must decide whether they'll reduce their crops and cattle or endure as they struggle to repay larger loans, according to two dozen farmers and bankers interviewed by Reuters.

"We see products in the grocery store increasing, and I think a lot of people don't understand that," Nash said. "We're not the ones pushing for increasing, we are making less than ever."

One of the worst droughts the country has seen in decades is also helping fuel food inflation. As of Tuesday, 53.2% of the lower 48 states is in a drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

"I think that's a big threat to the United States: weather, drought and water," Nash told Fox News. "We really didn't initiate any new programs to help farmers with devastation across America."

"There's a lot of great programs out there that do try to help farmers when they get sick or maybe a death in the family, but the government doesn't really capitalize on devastation," she added.

Nearly three-quarters of farmers saw a reduction in harvest yields due to drought, according to 2021 American Farm Bureau Federation poll of American food producers.

Similarly, two-thirds of ranchers and livestock farmers reported....



Severe drought and wildfires have caused farmers across the country to reduce crops, cattle sizes. ((AP Photo/Noah Berger))

[Read full article HERE](#)

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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. Also look for our Spanish version that will be released on Monday. Have a great week!

Your Dedicated NPC, LLC Staff