



# MARKET OUTLOOK



## Apples



SUPPLY

FAIR

QUALITY

GOOD

With less than 100 million cases, WA state's crop is the smallest since 2005. The average WA 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. Expecting to remain tight through the season until offshore new crops arrives in April.

## Asparagus



SUPPLY

FAIR

QUALITY

GOOD

Peru season have ended and expected to start up again in early April. Mexico volume continue to slowly increase. Market is expecting to remain tight for the next couple of weeks due to the cooler weather causing some delay in crossing. Mexico is expecting more cold weather in the growing region.

## Avocados



SUPPLY

GOOD

QUALITY

GOOD

The industry has easily absorbed the additional volumes over the last three weeks due to the stable market conditions. California Harvest has barely started and is primarily generating 60s and smaller. Since the MX size curve has shifted to favor smaller fruit as well, the most of CA producers will leave fruit on the trees so that it can size up. Peak production months in CA are late April through August. Overall market stability is likely to last through February, with modest weekly price change. The size curve will continue to favor smaller sizes for the next few weeks, up until mid-March. As the fruit enters the second half of the Normal harvest in late March, it will size up again. Holding temperatures should be set at 38 degrees since dry matter is currently slowly growing.

## Bananas



SUPPLY

GOOD

QUALITY

GOOD

Bananas remain tight due to chilly and damp weather conditions in the tropics, which can cause delays in the fruit's maturing process.

## **MARKET ALERT**

## Beans



SUPPLY

FAIR

QUALITY

GOOD

**Green Beans:** **ALERT** Current volume has improved a little from prior weeks in Florida. Harvesting is consistent if weather is nice, supply should be back to normal. Market is steady and active. Beans from Mexico continue to struggle on quality and light volume.

**Snow Peas:** Supplies are back to normal.

# MARKET OUTLOOK



**MARKET ALERT**

**Berries**



SUPPLY

FAIR

QUALITY

GOOD

**Blackberries:** Prices for Blackberries are stable this week. Production is currently coming out of Mexico. The market remains on the tight side. Growers are currently reporting steady volumes.

**Blueberries:** Prices for Blueberries are trending up this week. Production is currently coming out of California, Mexico, and Chile. Fruit out of California is currently slow to ripen. Mexico is seeing an increase in production volume. Chile's production is down due to heat and rains.

**Raspberries:** **ALERT** Prices for Raspberries is trending down this week. Production is currently coming out of Mexico. Growers are currently reporting steady volumes. The market remains extremely tight.

**Broccoli**



SUPPLY

GOOD

QUALITY

GOOD

Supplies continue to be steady for this week. Good demand for Broccoli this week. Market pricing remained steady this week. Current supplies are coming from Yuma & Santa Maria. Supplies are also coming out of Mexico. We are expecting for supplies to remain steady for the next few weeks. (F.O.B. pricing for this week \$15.00 - \$16.00)

**Brussels Sprouts**



SUPPLY

GOOD

QUALITY

GOOD

Supplies continue to be very good this week. Quality has been reported as good. Demand continues to remain steady. Improved volume coming out of Mexico. Steady demand for Brussel Sprouts is expected the next few weeks. (F.O.B. pricing for this week \$18.45 - \$18.65)

**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 continue improving the next few weeks. Product is coming from Yuma. (F.O.B. pricing for this week \$15.00 - \$16.50)

**Carrots**



SUPPLY

GOOD

QUALITY

GOOD

Weather and supply have improved, but some shippers are still struggling with a few line items out of California.

**Cantaloupes**



SUPPLY

FAIR

QUALITY

GOOD

**RADAR** Melon arrivals are limited at all ports and are expected to stay tight throughout the month of February. Poor weather patterns in late December and early January hampered yields, which impacted current arrivals. Demand has been surpassing supply, with no signs of a downturn soon. Cantaloupe production has mostly been 9/12s, with very few jumbos. Larger fruits are in high demand. This size trend is expected to remain for the following 3-4 weeks, up to late February. Quality has been improving weekly since the weather-related events in early January. Brix levels has been primarily in the 11-14% range.

# MARKET OUTLOOK

**MARKET ALERT**

**Cauliflower**



SUPPLY  
LIMITED  
QUALITY  
GOOD

Supplies continue to be light and market pricing remain escalated. Current supplies are coming from Yuma, Santa Maria, and Mexico. Supplies are expected to be short next week. Cold weather has slowed down the growth causing short supplies. Better availability on small size Cauliflower. (F.O.B. pricing for this week \$40.00 - \$42.00)

**MARKET ALERT**

**Celery**



SUPPLY  
GOOD  
QUALITY  
GOOD

Supplies and quality have improved. Supplies are currently coming from Oxnard and Yuma. Market and supplies are expected to continue improving in the next few weeks. (F.O.B. pricing for this week \$20.45 - \$20.65)

**Citrus**



SUPPLY  
GOOD  
QUALITY  
GOOD

**Limes: RADAR** The market is reacting, and prices have begun to increase. While the new harvest has already begun, the old crop is likely to be finished in the coming weeks. Overall quality and shelf life have improved as pack-out yields on U.S. #1-grade fruit have increased about 5-10%. Expect the market to stay somewhat flat until the new crop is fully transitioned towards the end of February, after which, supply is anticipating being extremely tight through the month of April. These trends align with our seasonal timeline.

**Lemons:** California lemons are being picked in D1. February and March will be an excellent promotional time for volume and quality on lemons. There is a lot of new plantings that are coming into production for this season. Lemons do size up quickly when it rains, and we are seeing this as well. Peaking sizes currently are 140/115/95s.

**Oranges:** The rain has helped the fruit size up a little more, which has been extremely good. Navels are mostly in Washington and Fisher varieties. Peaking sizes are 88/113/72; however, we are still a little challenged on larger navels, which is an industry issue, so those sizes are keeping firmer in pricing.

**MARKET ALERT**

**Corn**



SUPPLY  
FAIR  
QUALITY  
FAIR

Prices for Corn are trending up this week. Winter crops are usually on the lighter side and are weather dependent. Growers are expecting steady markets for the next few weeks. Production is coming out of Florida and Mexico.

# MARKET OUTLOOK



**MARKET ALERT**

**Cucumbers**



**SUPPLY**

GOOD

**QUALITY**

GOOD

**ALERT (English & Persian)** Prices for Slicing Cucumbers are trending down while Persian Cucumbers are trending up. Production is coming out of Florida, Mexico, and Honduras. Volumes are down out of Honduras this year. Florida's spring crop will begin in a small way during the first of March. Production out of Mexico is expected to remain steady. Persian Cucumbers are extremely tight. Pricing took a big jump this week. Looks for higher prices for at least the next couple 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

Arrival of grapes have been steadily increasing throughout February and will most likely be plentiful by early March. Although there are still a lot of Peruvian Grapes around, Chilean Grapes will be dominant by the end of the month.

**MARKET ALERT**

**Herbs**



**SUPPLY**

GOOD

**QUALITY**

GOOD

The cooler weather continues to be a challenge on all herbs in all growing regions. Labor has improved in Mexico. Weather conditions, less yields, fewer acres, and higher-than-expected demand will continue through February.

**Basil, Chervil, Dill & Oregano** is expected to be affected due to the weather.

**Cilantro:** Supplies have improved for this week. Quality has also improved. Markets are better compared to last week. Most growers will be shipping out of Oxnard and Imperial Valley. Expect supplies to be steady for a few weeks. (F.O.B. pricing this week \$15.55 - \$16.45)

# MARKET OUTLOOK

## Honeydews



SUPPLY  
LIMITED  
QUALITY  
GOOD

**RADAR** Honeydew production remains extremely limited in all growing regions. Offshore honeydew is significantly lower than in prior years. Expect elevated prices and restricted supply to continue for at least the next 4–5 weeks in the east. Majority of the sizes have been 5/6, with few jumbos. Depending on availability at the time of loading, size flexibility may be required.

## Iceberg



SUPPLY  
GOOD  
QUALITY  
GOOD

Supplies are steady this week. Overall quality is good, Weights and quality are expected to continue improving. Markets have remained steady. Growers are now harvesting in Yuma and Imperial Valley. (F.O.B. pricing for this week \$16.00 - \$17.00)

## Kale



SUPPLY  
GOOD  
QUALITY  
GOOD

Supplies are down compared to last week. Demand continues to be steady. Good quality has been reported at this time. Supplies should remain steady for a few weeks. Market pricing is higher this week compared to previous week. (F.O.B. pricing for this week \$13.65 - \$16.45)

## Leaf



SUPPLY  
GOOD  
QUALITY  
GOOD

**Green & Red Leaf:** Supplies continue to be very good this week. Quality is also reported as improved. Expect to see occasional wind/Fringe burn. Market pricing has improved and is not escalated. Harvest is coming from Imperial Valley, and Yuma. (Green Leaf F.O.B pricing for this week \$9.75 - \$11.00)(Red Leaf F.O.B. pricing for this week \$10.00 - \$13.00)

**Romaine:** Supplies continue improving this week. Romaine heads are looking better, and weights have also improved. Markets are better this week it will reflect on market pricing. Growers are now harvesting in Yuma AZ and Imperial Valley CA. (Romaine F.O.B. pricing for this week \$11.00 - \$12.00) (Romaine Hearts F.O.B. pricing for this week \$15.00 - \$17.00)

**Tender Leaf:** Supplies are very good for this week. Demand continues to be good this week. Supplies are steady. Improved quality has been reported by growers. Market pricing has returned to normal. 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 Idaho, New York, Oregon, and Washington. Quality is good. Demand is down. Market have softened. Super Colossal and Colossal Yellow onions continue to fetch a premium pricing due to the limited availability. All colors available. Trucks are plentiful. This will also have an impact on precut.

**Onions Green**



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

Supplies have improved this week. Market pricing will also be better for next week. Green onions are coming from Mexico. Supplies are better this week; market pricing will be steady for a few weeks. (F.O.B. pricing for this week \$12.65- \$14.45)

**Peppers Bell**



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

Prices for Green & Yellow Bell Peppers are trending down this week. Prices for Red Bell Peppers are steady. Growers planted less acreage in Florida this year. That's keeping the markets a bit tighter than usual. Parts of Mexico are working through recent rain events. Growers are forecasting the markets to come off a bit more in the weeks to come.

**MARKET ALERT**

**Peppers Chili**



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

**ALERT (Jalapeno & Poblano)** Prices for Chili Peppers are mostly trending down this week. Prices for Poblano and Jalapeno Pepper prices are still elevated. Production out of Florida is expected to pick up a bit in 1 to 2 weeks. Mexico will see more volume as warmer weather moves in the area.

# MARKET OUTLOOK

## Pineapples



SUPPLY

FAIR

QUALITY

GOOD

Larger sized Pineapples remain tight but will continue to slowly increase over the next few weeks.

## Potatoes



SUPPLY

FAIR

QUALITY

GOOD

Supply is steady and demand is slightly down. Market is steady. Even though the potato supply is still short, the decline in demand will allow for better for the next few weeks. Precut potatoes will be impacted as well.

## Squash



SUPPLY

GOOD

QUALITY

GOOD

Prices for Yellow Squash are stable this week. Prices for Zucchini are trending down. Production for Soft Squash is currently unstable in Florida. The spring crop in Florida is expected to start during the front end of March. Mexico has been impacted by cool and wet weather. Growers are expecting supplies to stabilize during the next few weeks.

**MARKET ALERT**

## Strawberries



SUPPLY

FAIR

QUALITY

POOR

Prices for Strawberries is trending down this week. Production is coming out of Florida, California, and Mexico. The weather has been improving in Florida and California. Volumes are picking up out of both those areas. Mexico will see volumes continue to decline each week until their season ends.

## Tomatoes



SUPPLY

GOOD

QUALITY

GOOD

Prices for all Tomatoes except Grape are trending down this week. Prices for Grape Tomatoes are trending slightly up but remain a good value. Growers are expecting the market to remain steady for at least 2 or 3 weeks barring any negative weather events.

## Watermelons



SUPPLY

FAIR

QUALITY

GOOD

Watermelons are a little tight. Seedless are shipping from Mexico while mini are out of Edinburg and Nogales. Quality has been good.



# MARKET OUTLOOK

## La Niña's likely effect in 2023

February 9, 2023

Perhaps the Chinese “weather research balloon,” which was shot down last week by our military after the craft had sailed across the continental U.S., got you to thinking about meteorology and La Niña like it did us.

Comprehensive posts on the ENSO blog for December 2022 and January 2023 shed some light on weather activity caused by La Niña, which is defined by the online Oxford Dictionary as “a cooling of the water in the equatorial Pacific. This activity occurs at irregular intervals and is associated with widespread changes in weather patterns complementary to those of El Niño, but less extensive and damaging in their effects.”

Its meteorological counterpart, El Niño, is defined as “an irregularly occurring and complex series of climatic changes affecting the equatorial Pacific region and beyond every few years, characterized by the appearance of unusually warm, nutrient-poor water off northern Peru and Ecuador, typically in late December.”

And according to the ENSO (acronym short for El Niño-Southern Oscillation) website, “The ENSO blog is written, edited, and moderated by Michelle L’Heureux (NOAA Climate Prediction Center), Emily Becker (University of Miami/CIMAS), Nat Johnson (NOAA Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory), and Tom DiLiberto and Rebecca Lindsey (contractors to NOAA Climate Program Office), with a periodic guest contributor.”

Emily Becker penned both the December 22 update at part- <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/december-2022-la-ni%C3%B1a-update-enso-blog-investigates-1> and the January follow-up at <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/january-2023-la-ni%C3%B1a-update-and-enso-blog-investigates-part-2>

In December she wrote, “As our regular readers will be very aware, La Niña has been rolling along in the tropical Pacific for many months, and our third La Niña winter in a row is under way. La Niña is the cool phase of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation... The current forecast is for La Niña to continue into the winter, with 50-50 chances for La Niña and neutral in the January–March average.”

She added to the December blog, “Forecasters are very confident that La Niña will continue in the short term, followed by a transition to neutral conditions. The exact timing of the transition is not clear, with equal chances of both La Niña and neutral for the January–March average. Confidence that La Niña will have exited by the February–April period, however, is fairly high, with a 71 percent chance of neutral. This forecast indicates that we can expect La Niña to influence our winter climate conditions this year.”

On Jan. 12 her update provided an overview of conditions at that time as a forecast.

Conditions in mid-January included: “The sea surface in the tropical Pacific has been cooler than the long-term average (1991–2020, currently) since mid-2020, and it remains so. However, we did see some weakening of this pattern over the past few weeks.”

Becker’s forecast said there’s “an 82 percent chance that La Niña will have ended and neutral conditions will reign by springtime (March–May).” She continued, “Forecasting the exact season (any three-month average is a ‘season’ in the ENSO-monitoring world) that La Niña will end (January–March? February–April?) is always challenging, since...”

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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 FB, LLC Staff