



MARKET OUTLOOK

SUPPLY = GOOD | QUALITY = GOOD

Apples



This year's Washington State Apple Crop is now estimated at 121 million boxes vs shipping 133.5 million last year. This is a significant drop from last season but WA will have Apples to sell throughout the Year. Eastern Washington had 2 major wind storms late September/Early October where in some areas devastated orchards. Plus - some varieties did not bounce back from the year before, we call it a light set. Also, late October - we had a few days between 12 and 18 degrees - some apples did not make it through. Reds, Golds, Galas and Gr Smiths are the varieties mostly impacted by the loss. The Farm to Family Box Program has been a huge part of the Price Increases seen in the past 2 Months.

SUPPLY = GOOD QUALITY = FAIR

Asparagus



Peru has good volume, steady demand and the quality is fair to good. Mexico is finally strong in the game now seeing good quality and demand along with supply right in time for Valentines day menus.

SUPPLY = GOOD | QUALITY = GOOD

Avocados



Following up on a record-breaking harvest last week, field activity in Mexico remained strong. Up to 73MM pounds (following 80 MM) were harvested with the pre-Super Bowl inventory buildup continuing. Early big-game demand has yet to keep pace with industry inventories. As a result, we have seen downward pressure on pricing to begin the week. To begin the week, the rate of harvest has slowed down, but not by any sizable measure. #2 fruit yield stands around the 11-12% range with inventory having limited outlets as foodservice continues to sputter.

SUPPLY = FAIR | QUALITY = GOOD

Bananas



We have now entered the countdown towards summer weather in the tropics. As it is here, it is still winter in the tropics but the temperatures will continue to increase over the month of February and into March. At this point the banana situation remains the same as last week with tight supplies as a result of the hurricanes.

SUPPLY = FAIR | QUALITY = GOOD

MARKET ALERT

Berries



Blackberries— : Prices for Blackberries is trending up this week. Supplies are tight due to recent cold weather in Mexico. Expect prices to remain elevated for the rest of February. **Blueberries**: Blueberry prices are trending up this week. Chile received heavy rains and demand for the Valentines Day holiday is putting pressure on the market. The rain in Chile will have long term impact on supplies and costing. **Raspberries**: Prices for Raspberries is trending up this week. Supplies are tight due to recent cold weather in Mexico. Just like with Blackberries, expect prices to remain elevated for the rest of February.

SUPPLY = GOOD | QUALITY = GOOD

Beans, Green



This market has stabilized. Seeing good demand, supply and quality.



MARKET OUTLOOK

Broccoli



Broccoli supplies continue to be excellent this week. Growers are expecting better quality and supplies. Improved quality is been reported at this time. Supplies are expected to remain steady for a few weeks.

SUPPLY = GOOD | QUALITY = GOOD

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Brussels Sprouts



Brussels Sprouts plenty of supplies this week. Growers are looking to promote Brussels sprouts at this time. Good quality is been reported at this time. Very good item to promote the month of February.

SUPPLY = GOOD | QUALITY = GOOD

Carrots



Carrots are very tight, especially 48/1s. With retail servicing a lot of demand that is normally taken care of in the foodservice sector it is putting some strains on compacity as the production system is not built to service the additional demand for these products. . There are not enough hours in the day to make everything being requested. This should improve as we open our Arizona and Georgia seasons the first week of January. Snack packs tight too.

SUPPLY = GOOD | QUALITY = GOOD

Cauliflower



Cauliflower supplies are steady this week. Markets are better this week. Good quality is been reported at this time. Supplies are expected to remain steady going into next week.

SUPPLY = FAIR | QUALITY = GOOD

Cantaloupes



Strong demand remains on cantaloupe especially on larger sized fruit. 9/9Js are almost in a demand exceeds supply situation. Smaller sizes (12/15s) have become slightly more available this week with demand lower due to poor weather across a large percentage of the country. We do anticipate inbound volumes to begin elevating on the east coast the first week of March which will help in providing some relief to the market highs from the past 5-6 weeks. Cantaloupe quality continues to show very good characteristics both externally and internally. Brix levels remain in mostly 12-14% levels.

MARKET ALERT

SUPPLY = FAIR | QUALITY = GOOD

Celery



Celery supplies have improved this week. Growers are harvesting better yields at this time. Good quality is been reported at this time. Expect markets to continue improving next week.

MARKET ALERT

SUPPLY = BAD | QUALITY = BAD

Corn



Prices for corn coming through Nogales from Mexico is trending slightly down this week. Prices of Corn out of South Florida is trending up again this week. Supplies are extremely tight in Florida. Growers are reporting a lot of shrink due to challenges with quality. Please give growers extra order lead time so they can secure supplies.



MARKET OUTLOOK

Cucumbers

SUPPLY = GOOD | QUALITY = GOOD



Pricing for English Cucumbers is trending down this week due to low consumer demands. Prices for slicing cucumbers is running mostly flat this week. Production is coming out of Honduras through Florida and Mexico. Growers are reporting good quality.

MARKET ALERT

SUPPLY = FAIR | QUALITY = GOOD

Eggplant

Prices for Eggplants is trending up this week. Production out of South Florida is down .



SUPPLY = FAIR | QUALITY = FAIR

MARKET ALERT

Grapes

Chile is reporting serious damage to a number of key fruit crops that are in their harvest season following unseasonal heavy rainfall in production regions. The situation will result in lower export volumes than expected for the 2020-21 season, according to Asoex president Ronald Bown. Bown said there are crops that have been "very damaged", not only due to splitting but also but to grapevine trellises collapsing due to the weight of the water. Thompson variety is already showing evidence of "mal de media luna" (half-moon syndrome), associated with a fungus that rots the grain and damages any attempt to market the fruit. In addition, hail fell in the area this morning, the effects of which are currently being evaluated.

SUPPLY = FAIR | QUALITY = GOOD

Honeydews

Honduran honeydew production has increased the past couple weeks which has caused the market to settle due to increased supply. There has also been some significant quality issues on some of the Honduran fruit which has caused a two-tier market as this fruit has been quoted at much lower levels. Production has been from western Guatemala which has shown good quality as you can see in the picture below.

SUPPLY = GOOD | QUALITY = FAIR



Iceberg

Lettuce supplies are very good this week. Growers are reporting better availability this week. Good quality and good weights are been reported this week. Growers are expecting steady supplies going into next week.

SUPPLY = GOOD | QUALITY = FAIR



Leaf

Romaine: Romaine supplies continue to improve this week. Growers are harvesting better yields this week. Fair quality and very good weights are expected going into next week. Growers are expecting steady supplies going into next week.

Green Leaf/ Red Leaf/ Butter (Boston) Lettuce: Steady supplies for this week.

SUPPLY = FAIR | QUALITY = GOOD



Tender Leaf

Steady supplies for this week.





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SUPPLY = GOOD | QUALITY = FAIR

Lemons & Limes



LIMES: Limes are sitting around \$20 for most sizes. Bigger fruit is cheaper in the low to mid teens along with very small fruit but wide range 175-230. **LEMONS:** Currently picking our D1 (Central Valley) crop and it is very nice and strong. The rain will help with growth which we needed very much. 115's thru 75's will remain firm as most of the volume will be in the 165/140 size structure. We do not anticipate any supply issues.

SUPPLY = FAIR | QUALITY = GOOD

Mushrooms



We are in the winter months where there is some activity as demand increases across the country. COVID restrictions are also affecting things at supplier level. Look for things to remain a bit tight for the next couple weeks and improve into the spring.

SUPPLY = GOOD | QUALITY = GOOD

Onions



Onion market remains very steady. Seeing good quality, supply and demand. Yellow FOBs \$6-7, whites \$12-14, reds \$6-7. We will be in the northwest for the next few months more before transitioning.

SUPPLY = FAIR | QUALITY = GOOD

Onions, Green



Supplies continue to be limited at this time. Growers are reporting better availability for next week

SUPPLY = GOOD | QUALITY = GOOD

Oranges



Fruit is great this season, appearance and eating quality is the best we have seen in many years. Fruit is currently peaking on 72/ 56 /88 – we are seeing a small percentage of 113/138 size fruit. We anticipate this to be the case the rest of navel season, which will mean if we find a strong demand for 113/138's we will start Valencia oranges earlier than normal, possibly the end of March. Due to the lack of supply on 113/138's we are planning these sizes to be firm in price and we will see market adjusting up each week as we move thru Feb.

SUPPLY = GOOD | QUALITY = GOOD

Pears



2020 is a clean crop of pears and quality is very good. Barts will be available through the last week of Feb or first week of March. New crop starts mid-August. Anjou's – through August, just in time for new crop. Red Pears – through June – new crop starts mid-August. Bosc – through April – new crop starts early September.

SUPPLY = FAIR | QUALITY = GOOD

Peppers, Bell



Pricing for Green, Red, Yellow peppers is trending down this week. Production out of Florida is feeling pressure from cold weather this week. Rain is also in the forecast for this week-end. Production out of Mexico is picking up. Growers are reporting good quality.



MARKET OUTLOOK

Peppers, Chili



Prices for Chili Peppers is trending steady this week. Production out of Florida is expected to decline due to cold weather and rains in the forecast. Growers are seeing some quality issues. Production out of Mexico is steady.

SUPPLY = FAIR | QUALITY = FAIR

SUPPLY = GOOD | QUALITY = GOOD

Pineapples



We experienced relatively dry, windy and moderately sunny days with cool nights. The lack of precipitation was a welcomed respite in our "tropical winter" period. This allowed our farms to complete all good husbandry practices in a timely manner. The only negative variable was the low night temperatures that may stress plants to bear fruit (flower) prematurely (NDF). While we have experienced some less than favorable climatic conditions during the last weeks, the quality of our fruit remains very acceptable and with very few issues to report.

SUPPLY = GOOD | QUALITY = GOOD

Potatoes



Potato market remains stable and steady. Seeing average supply quality and demand. FOBs from \$6-10, bigger spuds at the premium but average for this time of year. Snow and cold weather could slow loadings but don't see a huge concern right now.

SUPPLY = FAIR | QUALITY = GOOD

Squash



Prices for Green and Yellow Squash are trending down this week. Production is coming out of Mexico and Florida. Mexico is producing good volume right now. Production out of Florida is expected to come down going forward as cool weather and rains move in to South Florida.

SUPPLY = FAIR | QUALITY = FAIR

MARKET ALERT

Strawberries



Prices for Strawberries is trending up this week. California experienced rains and wind most of last week. Growers are reporting damage to Valentines Day holiday crops. Production coming out of Mexico and Florida is on the upswing but not enough to off set the loss of production out of California. Growers are strongly suggesting that orders be booked with extra loading lead times. This will give suppliers some much needed time to line up product for order fills.

SUPPLY = GOOD | QUALITY = GOOD

Tomatoes



Prices for Tomatoes are trending down again this week. Prices for larger 20 lb and 25 lb Large Round Tomatoes are the best value this week. Prices for small size 20 lb and 25 lb Round Tomatoes are commanding a premium. Growers are reporting good supplies and excellent quality. Production out of Florida is running steady while production out of Mexico is picking up. Growers are reporting low consumer demands this week and that's helping to put pressure on pricing.

Foodservice industry could get targeted COVID-19 relief

By AMY SOWDER February 4, 2021

“The U.S. Senate amendment to the COVID-19 relief budget calling for the creation of a dedicated restaurant relief fund has earned praise from United Fresh Produce Association and the Independent Restaurant Coalition.

Restaurant and bar sales fell by \$180 billion since the COVID-19 pandemic began, and more than 2.4 million of those employees remain out of work, according to the coalition — causing a ripple effect that’s crippled food-service providers, their wholesalers and their growers and packers.

“The Senate made it clear today: it’s time to save restaurants and bars. There is undeniable bipartisan support across the country for a dedicated restaurant relief fund,” coalition executive director Erika Polmar said in a statement.

United Fresh and the coalition have advocated for the Restaurants Act, a proposed \$120 billion restaurant revitalization fund, since April. The Feb. 4 amendment to the budget resolution was not a bill, but more of an agreement to consider funding for restaurants, said Robert Guenther, the association’s senior vice president of public policy. Still, it’s progress.

“The inclusion of a restaurant aid program in the budget resolution is another important step to help our struggling food service supply chain,” Guenther said. “United Fresh fully supports its inclusion and looks forward to working with policy makers on Capitol Hill to ensure that the foodservice supply chain can successfully utilize these funds for much-needed infrastructure investment.”

The majority of the restaurants that closed during the pandemic had been in business for at least 16 years, according to the National Restaurant Association’s 2021 State of the Restaurant Industry report.

And 72% of restaurant owners who closed for good say it’s unlikely they’ll open another restaurant in the coming months or years.

“As we approach the one-year mark of pandemic-related dining restrictions, we know that virtually every restaurant in every community has been impacted,” restaurant association president and CEO Tom Bené said in a statement.”

<https://www.thepacker.com/news/foodservice/foodservice-industry-could-get-targeted-covid-19-relief>

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