



**WEEK 12 : March 21 - March 27, 2022**  
**MARKET OUTLOOK**

**Regional Weather Update:**

**Oxnard, CA:** Partly cloudy and sunny throughout the week with highs in the mid-60s to upper 70s and lows in the in the 50s.

**Salinas, CA:** Partly cloudy with highs in the mid-60s to high 70s and lows in the mid-40s to 50s with sunny on Tuesday and Wednesday.

**Yuma, AZ:** Mostly sunny with highs in the 80s to 90s and lows in the high 50s to mid-60s with partly cloudy on Saturday.

**Immokalee, FL:** Partly cloudy during the week with highs in the low 80s to 90s and lows in the upper-50s to 70s with sunny on Monday and Sunday.

**Idaho Falls, ID:** Sunny and cloudy throughout the week with highs in the 40s to 60s and lows in the 20s to mid-30s.

**Transportation:**

**National Diesel Average:** \$5.25 **Compared to Last Year:** \$3.191

**National Fuel Surcharge:** \$0.65

**Shortages:** Seeing high freight rates, with **extreme** shortages remain in FL and NC; **slight** shortage in: CO, MI, MN & ND

**MARKET ALERT**

**Banana**

**Carrots**

**Celery**

**Citrus: Limes (Force Majeure), Oranges**

**Cucumbers**

**Grapes**

**Lettuce: Iceberg, Green & Red Leaf, Romaine**

**Mushrooms**

**Onions**

**Peppers Bell: Green**

**Pepper Chili**

**Potatoes**

# MARKET OUTLOOK



## Apples



SUPPLY  
FAIR  
QUALITY  
GOOD

The market continues to stay firm as demand remains strong, leaving growers with less fruit. Overall crop is down this year. Washington apple crop is significantly smaller than previous years. The heat Washington has experienced past summer has resulted in some challenges that the industry is still dealing with. The average fruit size appears to be down a half size to a full size and bi-color varieties had troubles reaching their optimum appeal. We can expect strong market for large, premium, high color No. 1 fruit. Premium Honeycrisp as well as Gala continues to be tight. Pricing overall is running higher due to the shorter crop, inflation in the growing chain including labor, picking, and transporting of apples. Quality has been good.

## Asparagus



SUPPLY  
SHORT  
QUALITY  
FAIR

Asparagus production from Caborca/San Luis region in Mexico is getting better on the smaller sizes but continues to struggle with the larger sizes. Growers are expecting to have supplies through Easter if weather stay warm. Standard and large supplies are good in the West coast and prices is expected to remain stable. Jumbo and XL supplies are fair and expected to be a little tighter over the next week. East coast will have limited supplies due to less Peruvian coming in which is causing the price to go up.

## Avocados



SUPPLY  
GOOD  
QUALITY  
GOOD

US inventories continue to grow. However, Mexico's crossing came in considerably lower than projections, meaning we once again have a 2-tiered primed market. Slower demand is resulting in some US inventories to back-up and fruit being discounted to keep it moving, however new crossings are matching demand with no need to discount the freshest lots. The size curve saw an interesting lift in x-large fruit, just a small step up, but for a PLU that's been limited for months even the slightest of increases is of note. Remains to be seen if this trend will continue, but as orchards being harvested move into higher elevations it's possible, we could continue to see some relief in x-large fruit, but best to proceed with caution and we'll see if this becomes a trend. Monday is a holiday in Mexico and there will be no harvest, and with the current week tracking light on harvested volume it's very likely the market will continue to plateau and possibly strengthen by late next week.

## **MARKET ALERT**

## Bananas



SUPPLY  
GOOD  
QUALITY  
GOOD

Banana availability is picking up and so is the quality. The weather is improving and the issues in Europe are increasing the supply as less fruit is being shipped there.

## Berries



SUPPLY  
GOOD  
QUALITY  
GOOD

**Blackberries:** Prices for Blackberries are trending up this week. Volumes are down. Look for tight supplies for another week or so.

**Blueberries:** Prices for Blueberries are trending up this week. Fruit is coming out of Mexico, Chile, California, and Florida. Expect volumes to pick up as more the domestic product comes online.

**Raspberries:** Prices for Raspberries are trending up this week. Production is coming out of Georgia, Florida, and Mexico. Supplies are tight due to the recent freeze in Georgia and cool weather in Florida.

# MARKET OUTLOOK



**SUPPLY**

**Beans Green**

FAIR

**QUALITY**

FAIR



Growers in East coast are seeing some decay in the beans due to rain, and cold weather in the growing region. Expecting better quality in the next week. Supplies on the West coast are steady, and quality is good.

**SUPPLY**

**Broccoli**

GOOD

**QUALITY**

GOOD



Supplies will continue to be very good this week. Growers are currently reporting very good yields. Quality is also reported as good. Growers are expecting supplies to remain steady for a few weeks. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$9.05 - \$10.01)

**SUPPLY**

**Brussels Sprouts**

GOOD

**QUALITY**

GOOD



Supplies continue to be very good this week. Quality is reported as improved and very good. Growers are reporting improved yields, expect steady supplies for a few weeks. Good time to promote Brussel Sprouts. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$14.45 - \$15.65)

**MARKET ALERT**

**SUPPLY**

**Carrots**

POOR

**QUALITY**

GOOD



Crop yield is low. Packing houses having issues also with labor. Jumbo carrots and some pre-cut value-added items are impacted.

**SUPPLY**

**Cantaloupes**

GOOD

**QUALITY**

GOOD



Good volume on cantaloupe continues but some growers are struggling securing shipping equipment to all ports. This is assisting to create stronger demand in addition to the strong retail promotions currently in place. We expect this trend to continue over the next few weeks at least. A late Easter historically pushes demand on the melons as it overlaps with warmer temperatures. Current arrivals have a nice mix of 9/9Js and 12s allowing for all business to be covered as ordered. Quality has turned where we are beginning to see more of a higher shell color on the cantaloupe. Internal quality remains consistent with mostly a 12-14% range on brix.

**MARKET ALERT**

**SUPPLY**

**Cauliflower**

SHORT

**QUALITY**

GOOD



Supplies continue to be very limited this week. Overall quality is reported as good, growers are reporting lower yields at the time of harvest. Growers are expecting supplies to be light for another few weeks. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$25.60 - \$27.05)

# MARKET OUTLOOK

**MARKET ALERT**

Celery



SUPPLY  
SHORT  
QUALITY  
GOOD

Supplies continue to be limited this week. Quality is reported as good. Most growers are expecting for markets to increase as Yuma AZ is getting close to the end of the season. Celery will be moving to Oxnard CA and Santa Maria CA. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$20.25 - \$21.35)

**MARKET ALERT**

Citrus



SUPPLY  
FAIR  
QUALITY  
FAIR

**Limes ALERT - FORCE MAJEURE:** Costs on large fruit remain elevated as volume peaks on small sizes. There will be a significant pricing gap between specs throughout the remainder of March into April. The market is expected to remain relatively stable, although costs on small fruit will begin to decline. We're not expecting market trends to normalize until the last week of April or the first week of May. Demand trends will dictate the velocity of further cost shifts. During this time, please plan supply in advance and be cognizant of frequent price changes.

**Lemons:** The rain kept us from picking heavy in December and now with the weather heating up color is starting to change - so it's time to pick and we cannot stop at this point. Lots of lemons available and we expect this to remain this way until mid-April. Currently Fruit is peaking on a 115s /140s / 95s.

**Oranges RADAR:** Good volumes on 72's and larger Fcy and Choice available. With the market price increase throughout the industry on Navels domestic sales have slowed way down on all sizes. Due to limited supplies this year the industry needed this will help to extend this year's Navel crop. 88's and smaller will continue to be tight we expect this to remain the same thru the end of the navel season. We will start CA vals mid-April to help with getting some of the fruit with smaller sizing.

Corn



SUPPLY  
FAIR  
QUALITY  
FAIR

Prices for Corn is trending up this week. Supplies out of South Florida are a bit tighter this week. Supplies are inconsistent but typical for this time of year. Growers in Florida are expecting some price relief in the weeks to come. Mexico is keeping the needs for the West covered. ***Growers are reporting that corn is expected be tight for the 4th of July Holiday due to the freeze in Georgia last weekend. It's highly recommended that your holiday needs are booked early to help the growers tie up supplies.***

**MARKET ALERT**

Cucumbers



SUPPLY  
FAIR  
QUALITY  
FAIR

Prices for Cucumbers are trending up this week. The season for Imported fruit out of Honduras is winding down. Production out of Florida is just beginning. Volume will slowly ramp up as we move forward. Production out of Mexico has been hampered by cool weather. Growers are expecting improved volumes as the weather warms up.

Eggplant



SUPPLY  
FAIR  
QUALITY  
GOOD

Prices for Eggplant are trending up this week. Eggplant supplies are traditionally tight out of Florida this time of year. Look for the market to remain strong for the next 4 to 6 weeks. Supplies out of Mexico is in decent shape and supplies are sufficient to cover the West.

# MARKET OUTLOOK



## Garlic



SUPPLY  
SHORT  
QUALITY  
GOOD

Garlic will start to feel a slight squeeze due most US growers getting closer to a Growing Gap and relying on Imports to supplement. Import is on the low side for now but, will show a slight increase once we see the delay on cargo ships again next month.

**MARKET ALERT**

## Grapes



SUPPLY  
GOOD  
QUALITY  
GOOD

Weather in Chile is going perfectly for grapes and has been for a few weeks which is increasing the supplies being imported into the US. Red Grape pricing continues to be low with plenty of supply. Greens remain higher as fewer supplies have been shipped.

## Honeydews



SUPPLY  
FAIR  
QUALITY  
GOOD

Honeydew demand continues to be very strong especially on the larger sizes which are extremely limited. The current sizing profile has been primarily 6/8s. Quality has been clean externally with brix levels mostly in the 12-13% range.

**MARKET ALERT**

## Iceberg



SUPPLY  
SHORT  
QUALITY  
FAIR

Supplies continue to be extremely short this week. Quality and Weights will be only fair at this time. Expect for smaller heads and weights to be below normal. Growers are expecting supplies to become limited the next few weeks until we transition to Huron CA and Salinas CA. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$47.53 - \$48.53)

**MARKET ALERT**

## Leaf



SUPPLY  
FAIR  
QUALITY  
FAIR

**Romaine ALERT:** Supplies continue be extremely short this week. Growers are encountering some quality issues at field level blistering and epidermal peel. Romaine and Romaine Hearts quality will be fair at best. Growers are expecting for supplies to become very limited the next few weeks until we transition to Huron Ca and Salinas CA. (Romaine pricing for this week \$40.21 - \$43.95) (Romaine Hearts pricing for this week \$42.51 - \$43.51)

**Green & Red Leaf Lettuce ALERT:** Supplies continue to be light this week. Growers are reporting average yields. Quality is reported as only fair with light color and some fringe burn. Supplies will continue to remain average until we transition to Salinas CA. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$18.48 - \$22.95)

**Tender Leaf:** Supplies continue to be good this week. Demand is good on tender leaf; quality is very good. Supplies should remain steady for a few weeks. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$4.65 - \$4.75)

# MARKET OUTLOOK



**MARKET ALERT**

**Mushrooms**



SUPPLY  
SHORT  
QUALITY  
FAIR

**Shitake Mushrooms:** 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.

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.

**MARKET ALERT**

**Onions**



SUPPLY  
FAIR  
QUALITY  
FAIR

**EXTREME ALERT:** Onions supplies continue to get tighter as NW crop ends a month early causing some shippers to gap until May. Markets is still very active on all sizes and colors. Reds are the tightest, but all colors are a demand exceeds supply without immediate relief in sight. Onions continue to get worse; demand exceeds supply is extreme. This is vastly affecting pre-cut onions as well. Quality continues to be a concern and not lasting on the supply that is left either.

**Onions Green**



SUPPLY  
GOOD  
QUALITY  
GOOD

Supplies continue to improve this week. Market pricing is starting to improve and should continue improving. Supplies coming from Mexico will improve the next few weeks. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$10.20 - \$11.15)

**Pears**



SUPPLY  
FAIR  
QUALITY  
FAIR

Bartletts, Anjou, red pears and Bosc are now shipping out of Washington State and Oregon. The volume this year seems to be light with the fruit expecting to run a size or two smaller than last season. The large high-quality fruit will bring a premium this year and the prices will trend up over the next couple of months on them. Prices on Bartlett pears is rising with strong demand in the last few weeks. Most shippers will finish up with their Bartlett crop in February. Imported Bartletts are arriving to replace the domestic crop.

**MARKET ALERT**

**Peppers Bell**



SUPPLY  
FAIR  
QUALITY  
FAIR

**ALERT (GREEN BELLS)** Prices for Green, Red & Yellow Peppers are trending up this week. Green Peppers are tighter out of Florida. Higher volumes from Spring Crops are just around the corner but any cool weather could slow things down a bit. Production out of Mexico is trending down. Growers are reporting cool weather and less volume as their winter season comes to an end.

**MARKET ALERT**

**Peppers Chili**



SUPPLY  
FAIR  
QUALITY  
FAIR

Prices for Chili Peppers are mixed this week. Production out of Florida is hit or miss as production winds down on the winter crop. The spring crop isn't forecasted to support with adequate volume until the end of April. Mexico will be transiting to their spring crop in a few weeks. Until then, look for inconsistent supplies.

# MARKET OUTLOOK

## Pineapples



SUPPLY

GOOD

QUALITY

GOOD

Pineapple volume continue to be ok. The size profile is shifting towards the larger size due to great growing condition. Quality and taste profile are great.

**MARKET ALERT**

## Potatoes



SUPPLY

FAIR

QUALITY

GOOD

This market remains of high concern for the duration of this crop. Potato market has stabilized on all sizes for now but it's a mixed profile depending on the region. Price remains much higher than average with reduced yields. Cold weather and snow are now playing a part in the northwest along with continued shortage of trucks and freight concerns. With the shortage on trucks, freights continue to be extremely high.

## Squash



SUPPLY

FAIR

QUALITY

FAIR

Prices for Green and Yellow Squash are trending up. The spring crop out of Florida is slowly ramping up. Growers expect a tight market for the next 2 to 3 weeks. Mexico has experienced some cool weather. That slowed down winter and spring crop's production. Florida and Mexico both recently experience wind so expect to see scaring for a few weeks going forward.

## Strawberries



SUPPLY

GOOD

QUALITY

GOOD

Prices for Strawberries are trending up this week. Growers are reporting good quality this week. Fruit out of Oxnard could be dusty due to winds. Cool weather has hampered production, but growers are expecting volumes to pick up in the weeks to come. Harvesting in Florida is winding down. Mexico is done for the season.

## Tomatoes



SUPPLY

GOOD

QUALITY

GOOD

Prices for Tomatoes are stable this week. Prices are at good value levels. As expected, production out of Florida dropped down a bit this week. Plants experienced bloom drop during the freeze last month and that cut down on the amount of fruit that's currently available. Growers are expecting production to normalize in April. Production out of Mexico is expected to remain strong for another couple weeks before declining. Growers in Mexico will be transiting to new fields at that time.

## Watermelons



SUPPLY

FAIR

QUALITY

GOOD

Expect to see a slight gap in production on the seedless watermelon with only limited arrivals anticipated. Higher winds pushed through the growing region which has impacted short-term production. Mexican supplies are drastically reduced and expected to stay this way over the next few weeks.



# MARKET OUTLOOK

## Citrus prices spike 6.8% in February as weather, disease woes continue

Published March 14, 2022 | By [Chris Casey](#), Associate Editor

### Dive Brief:

- The consumer price index for food-at-home increased 1.4% in the month of February, and rose 8.6% over the past 12 months — the largest 12-month increase since the period ending April 1981, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' [Consumer Price Index](#) released last week.
- Fruits and vegetables saw the steepest monthly increase among the major food at home segments, rising 2.3% — its largest such increase since March 2010. It was driven by a 6.8% monthly jump in prices of citrus fruits, including oranges and tangerines.
- Prices for citrus fruits have increased 16.2% over the past year, according to BLS data, due to cold weather and disease harshly compounding an already constrained supply for the oranges, even as demand has been growing.

### Dive Insight:

February saw the highest monthly gains in food prices since April 2020, the second month of the pandemic, [according to CNBC](#). The price of baked goods rose 1.3% on a monthly basis, with flour and prepared mixes up 1.1% amid [higher wheat prices](#), per BLS data. Dairy and related products rose 1.9%, its largest monthly increase since April 2011, driven by higher milk prices. Meat prices also continued to rise, with poultry up 1.7% in February, and ham prices increasing 3%

The jump in citrus prices comes amid a difficult growing season for farmers in states including Florida, California and Texas. The USDA noted in its [citrus report](#) in January that the production forecast for the crop was significantly lower than previous years.

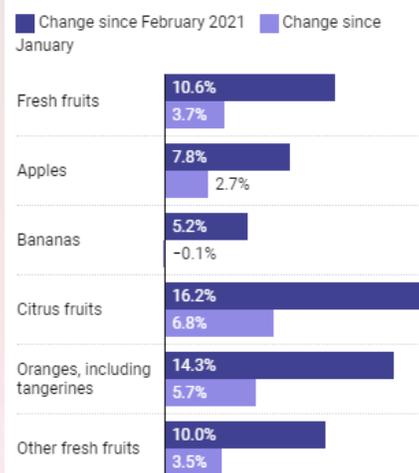
The report predicted inclement weather and citrus greening disease would make this an especially tough season. [Freezing temperatures in Florida and Texas](#) have hurt this season's orange crop. Citrus greening, which has no cure, has spread across Florida and Texas [according to The Wall Street Journal](#). The disease reduces yield for farmers and [impacts the quality of the fruit](#), making it less appealing to consumers. It also [makes fruit grow smaller](#), have higher acidity as well as lower sugar content.

Meanwhile, the ongoing supply chain crisis has further complicated the difficult task of growing and selling the fruit for farmers. Emily Ayala, an owner of Friend's Ranches farm in Ojai, California, [told CNBC](#) that farmers in her locale dumped around 10% of their supply of healthy oranges that were not able to make it to market because there was no available labor or freight to transport it.

The higher citrus prices have trickled down to consumer products. Orange juice prices increased 13.8% across 2021, according to USDA data [cited by The Washington Post](#). While juice sales had been declining for years because of consumers' concerns over its typically high sugar content, orange juice [saw a resurgence in popularity](#) at the start of the pandemic. The beverage is still linked to immune health for many because of its [high vitamin C content](#). Consumers continue to value beverages that [contain functional benefits](#) after two years of the pandemic, so demand for orange juice remains high. According to [a report from Tridge](#) in July 2021, orange juice sales are expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 2.35% until 2025.

**For full story:** <https://www.fooddive.com/news/citrus-prices-spike-68-in-february-as-weather-disease-woes-continue/620253/>

### Percent increase for prices of fruits - February 2022



Source: [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) - [Get the data](#) - Created with [Datawrapper](#)

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

