



WEATHER UPDATE

Yuma - Sunny to partly cloudy next week. Highs in the 90s and lows in the 60s. **Oxnard** - Sunny to partly cloudy next week with a slight chance of rain next Friday. Highs in the 70s and lows in the 50s. **Mexico (Culiacan)**- Sunny to partly cloudy next week with highs in the 90s and lows in the 50s. **Florida, Southern**— Some sun but mostly cloudy next week with chances of rain throughout the week with highs in the 80s and lows in the 60s. **Idaho**—Mostly cloudy next week with a chances of rain most of the week. Highs will be in the 50s and lows in the 30s.

TRANSPORTATION

The National Diesel Average has been recorded at \$3.080 up \$0.010 a gal from last week and up \$0.070 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 in good supply across the country.**

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MARKET ALERT

Avocado
Broccoli
Broccolini
Celery
Limes
Onions

MARKET OUTLOOK



Apples



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

As we enter Q1 - the only 2 apples with any concern are the granny smiths and golds. These 2 varieties are still very tight especially on small sizes - 100s and smaller. Good supplies of reds, galas and fu-jis. Demand is solid with prices steady. Internal pressures and flavor has been one of the best years.

Asparagus



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

The market is lower this week due to less demand and more supply out of Mexico. Expect to see a decline in volume next week as growers begin to transition from Baja to Central Mexico. Quality has been reported as good to fair, should see improvement once they transition.



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Avocados



The market has jumped \$15-\$20/box on all sizes the last 7days. There are a couple of root causes here, though primarily, a move to the higher elevation fruit where harvest is not mandatory. Projections show the Mexican growers only have to harvest 40million lbs (the harvest has averaged 55-60million last 12 weeks) a week in order to finish their crop by July 1st. Demand is also up considerably, and Mexico is presently the only region with significant volume. All sizes are being impacted. This is still good volume, but California has 60% less fruit this year, so there is little support from other countries of origin the next 2-3months, until Peru makes its way into the market. In short, as long as the Mexican growers manage their volume, they have total control of the market.

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Bananas



Supplies have transitioned back to "normal" with on time vessels and arrivals from the tropics. Fruit quality remains good with no real changes in the short term.

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Berries



BLACKBERRIES- A lot of large retail ads going on due to lack of other bush berries right now. This is snugging up supplies. Will be the trend for the next 2-3 weeks. Quality is good. Pricing is steady to higher.

BLUEBERRIES- **Chile-**Supplies lighter and seeing some quality issues. Best price point out there right now. **Mexico-** Volume is light and pricing is steady to higher. **Florida-** blues coming on now and expect good volume by mid-April.

RASPBERRIES- Quality improving out of Mexico. Supplies are steady and improving. Pricing is steady.

MARKET OUTLOOK



Broccoli



MARKET ALERT

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Broccoli supplies continue to be tight this week. Last week in Yuma, before the transition to Salinas Valley, expect light supplies the next few weeks. We are hopeful the market gets back to normal once the full transition switches back to Salinas. Growers are reporting better quality this week. Cooler weather & rain can cause supply issues at the start of the Salinas Valley season.

Brussels Sprouts



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Supplies are better this week, quality has also improved. Expect prices to be steady for the next few weeks. Cooler weather and rain have affected the new crops to start out of the Salinas Valley.

Cauliflower



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Supplies have improved this week. Growers are reporting better quality. Expect the market to be unsettled during the transition from Yuma to Salinas Valley. Cooler weather and rain can cause supply issues at the start of the Salinas Valley season.

Cantaloupes



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Strong retail promotions continue driving the cantaloupe market with very good demand. Sizing is primarily 9s & larger with smaller percentages of 12/15s coming. Supply from Guatemala will start to decrease over the next 7-10 days which is a direct result of whitefly influence either with lower yields or acreage having been converted to honeydews. Quality has been excellent with good shell color & brix levels mostly in the 11-14% range.

Carrots



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Currently harvesting in Bakersfield, demand is very strong with Canada wrapping up production and is driving prices up. Demand is starting to exceed supply. Will start our Imperial Valley harvest in March, depending on yields when we arrive down there the market could continue to adjust upward as this is the most expensive harvest location of the year. We are also seeing minimum wage increasing and have increased our precooling cost charge to growers so these factors will also put upward pressure on prices.

MARKET ALERT

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Celery



Celery supplies continue to struggle this year out of the desert with all the weather related issues. Growing acreage was reduced this year by several growers. Celery is behind in the Salinas Valley with the unusual cold weather effecting the growth. We expect the markets to stay escalated for another few weeks. We will continue to monitor the market and update everyone if there are any changes.

Corn



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Current market is steady with good supplies out of Florida and Mexico. Good quality being reported out of both east and west.

MARKET OUTLOOK



Cucumbers



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Good quality, prices and supplies out of Mexico. We're expecting prices to go up a bit next week as growers get excess inventories worked through the supply chain. Out of the East, there are several producers rolling in good volumes with nice quality. Look for more of the same for at least the next few weeks.

Eggplant



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Mexico's eggplant supply is steady this week with good quality. Although there is plenty of supplies demand is strengthening as we move further into Lent season. Florida's eggplant supply is light with fair quality this week, with only light acreage in the current mix. Expect more of the same for the next few weeks or until Plant City starts new crops.

Grapes



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

The markets for red and green grapes are fairly consistent, with green being slightly more problematic to source than the red. Green will be challenging for the remainder of the import season, where red should continue to be plentiful. Sizing is consistent with good color and overall quality across all varieties. Market pricing is about average for this time of the season.

Green Beans



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Although yields are down a little on current crops due to slight bloom drop from previous weather, there's still more than enough product available in Florida to meet the needs of the East. Mainland Mexico's bean numbers and quality are also strong. Supply may tighten up a little as Easter pulls take hold, but don't foresee any major issues in the immediate future.

Herbs



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

March is the month for transition from Mexico to California on most of the fresh herbs. Plantings were delayed slightly with all the rain this winter, but this should not affect supply. The warmer weather has helped local winter crop to rebound & supplies should be stronger by the end of the month on parsley, mint, & oregano.

Honeydews



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Honeydew supply remains consistent with larger fruit being the predominant sizing. Good volumes will remain over the next 14-21 days which will keep the market in a steady price range. Quality remains very clean with good brix levels in the 10-13% range.

MARKET OUTLOOK

Iceberg



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Supplies are better this week, warmer weather in the Yuma area. Iceberg will be transitioning to Huron next week. We are expecting for better quality once the transition is finalized. At the moment we will experience some quality issues out of Yuma. We are still seen signs of epidermal peel & blistering. Light weights & tip burn on outer leaves are expected. We should see improvement once we transition back to Huron next week.

Kale



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

The market continues to be steady this week as more supplies have come on with the recent nice weather in Yuma. Quality is good with full bunches, and only an occasional yellow leaf being reported.

Leaf



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Romaine - Supplies are better this week, warmer weather in the Yuma area. Romaine will be transitioning to Salinas in two weeks & should see better quality once the transition is finalized. There are some quality issues out of Yuma this being the end of the season, still seeing signs of epidermal peel & blistering. Light weights & tip burn on outer leaves are expected. **Green Leaf/Red Leaf and Boston/Butter Lettuce**- Supplies have improved this week, warmer weather in the Yuma area. Leaf Lettuce will transition back to Salinas in two weeks & should see improvement in quality after the transition. Still seeing the same quality issues with tip burn in the outer leaves, epidermal peel, & blistering in the center of the Leaf lettuce.

Tender Leaf



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

It's that time of year folks. Crops transition to CA 4/1/19. It's usually a difficult time of year as growers make the move from one growing area to the next. This year it will be even more difficult due to the long periods of bad weather & less than optimal growing conditions. Rain in the forecast for most of CA all this weekend. We're expecting some supply & quality challenges for the next few weeks.

Lemons & Limes



MARKET ALERT

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Lemons- Spring brings warmer weather & that creates a higher demand. Prices are firming up & looking to remain steady with FOBs in the high \$20's on small sizes. Expect the smaller fruit get tighter for the next couple of months.

Limes ALERT – The market has finally come off a bit but remains escalated with FOBs in the \$30s instead of the \$40s like this week. Sizing remains smaller & big fruit demand exceeds supply.



MARKET OUTLOOK

MARKET ALERT

Onions



Market is steady from last week price wise but supply wise struggling. FOBs on reds and yellows remain around \$14, but this is a very active market & a lot going on per the talk in the grapevine April will be one for the books as suppliers are pulling programs left & right. NPC's program is holding strong & steady covering consistent contracted business. May transition will be here in a month, but that crop is already tight as well. Don't expect relief until mid-June.

QUALITY SUPPLY

Onions, Green



Steady supplies coming in out of Mexico. Green Onions supplies are expected to be stable for the next few weeks. Good quality reported with multiple growers.

QUALITY SUPPLY

Oranges



Good quality and markets are looking steady on navels. Sugar levels range from 11 to 12 Brix. Good availability on all sizes. Valencia oranges from Florida, Mexico, and Texas are also available. Plenty of specialty citrus available with good quality. (Sun Delite Mandarins, Pummelos, Cara Caras, Blood oranges, & Gold Nugget Mandarins)

QUALITY SUPPLY

Pears



Pears are in good supply. Barts should go through February - Bosc should go through April. Red Anjou should go through June while Anjou through July -first part of August, just in time for new crop Barts.

QUALITY SUPPLY

Peppers, Bell



Southern Florida's volumes have improved as growers move into new blocks & continue to work older fields. All sizes are available, but there's more jumbo than XL fruit available as farms work crown picks for bigger pepper. Quality is nice & should continue to be barring any weather issues. In Mexico, what a difference a week makes. Supplies has picked up & as expected, the cost have rapidly dropped on all bell peppers. Looking for good supplies & quality going forward.

QUALITY SUPPLY

Peppers, Chili



Good supplies & good quality of chili peppers available now that all the Mexican regions are in production. Southern Florida producers are bringing light to moderate volumes of jalapeno, poblano, Cubanelles, & Hungarian wax peppers to the table. Expect better volume out of Florida in a few weeks when Plant City gets started.

QUALITY SUPPLY

MARKET OUTLOOK

Pineapples



Volumes have slowed as yields are lower coming off a strong Q1. There will be promotable supplies for the Easter Holiday, however not an oversupply as we have seen in previous periods. Weather patterns are the culprit here, but quality is otherwise very good with sizing availability more in the mid-range of 6/7ct.



Potatoes



Potatoes are steady from last week. 60s are about the only thing slightly up. Anything bigger is really tight. Burbank transition continues & is remaining on the smaller size range in regards to profile curve. There's a \$3 spread in Norks & Burbanks this week. Expect markets to remain firm & quality issues could arise as we are getting into later storage potatoes.



Squash



In Mexico, some shippers are ending the season out of Nogales, AZ. Quality & cost has been good. Expecting some strength with pricing as shippers out of Mexico wind down the season. It won't be that long before the domestic season hits full swing. In Florida, there's a lot of new crop squash this week, which has definitely helped with quality & volume in the East. South Florida, Homestead, & Plant City are all in the squash game. Despite recent concerns, Homestead farms are into new crops & quality has shaped up.



Strawberries



California—Supplies are still light this week. Distributors must be flexible on loading days. Pricing steady to lower. **Oxnard**- Quality is fair to good. Seeing some white shoulders, & occasional bruising. Showers last week did slow some harvesting, but back on track this week. Size out of Oxnard large & perfect for stems next week. 14-16ct. **Santa Maria**- Warming trend going into this weekend. Increasing volumes on the way moving into April. Sizing out of Santa Maria larger also 10-14cts.

Florida—Season wrapping up next week.

Mexico—Finished



Tomatoes



Although most Florida growers are working through the transition from southern crops to the Ruskin/ Palmetto area, supply is steady and adequate. Several growers are beginning with grapes in Palmetto/Ruskin this week & will follow up with romas, then rounds with all varieties going by the second week in April. In the meantime, they continue to harvest a little crown but mostly 2nds and 3rds from the remaining winter plantings in the southern part of the state. Quality is mostly good, but there are some scarring and shape issues to grade out of the 2nd and 3rd picks. Look for volumes to get strong over the next 2-3 weeks as all producers move into promising new Spring acreage.

In Mexico, right now supply is higher than demand. Good quality and prices. We're hearing about ongoing immigration and border crossing issues. As long as things don't get out of hand the market should stay stable.





MARKET OUTLOOK

Broccoli

Broccoli supplies remain tight this week due to cold weather & rain in the growing regions. Strong demand continues and will remain for the next 3-4 weeks. Quality is being reported as good to fair.



California

LGMA to require treatment of water for leafy greens

Growers in the [California Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement](#) will soon be sanitizing “open-source” water used on their crops, which has been the focus of at least two recent E. coli outbreaks traced to leafy greens. Scott Horsfall, the group’s CEO, said the new water treatment rules could be implemented as early as late April, or as late as mid-July. It’s the latest change in how the industry grows [lettuces](#), herbs and other leafy greens in the wake of three E. coli outbreaks. Open-source water includes groundwater, water transported by canals, or held in irrigation reservoirs — basically water that comes into contact with the environment. The Food and Drug Administration’s report on an outbreak that led to all [romaine](#) being removed from commerce in November targeted a reservoir on land owned by Adam Bros. Farming Inc. in Santa Barbara County, Calif. The FDA found a genetic E. coli match to the romaine lettuce in sediment in the reservoir.

According to the FDA report, the water was “most likely not effectively treated with a sanitizer and this may have led to contaminated water directly contacting romaine lettuce after harvest or by the washing/rinsing harvest equipment food contact surfaces.” During an investigation into a similar outbreak in April 2018, the FDA found E. coli in canal water for irrigation that passed by a large cattle-feeding operation. The E. coli was a genetic match to the tests from patients.

Horsfall said that testing and treating water used for overhead irrigation is of particular interest. “The consensus right now is that overhead irrigation is a practice that needs to be particularly controlled and treated before use,” he said.

[Taylor Farms](#), Salinas, Calif., announced it would purchase product only from growers that treat open source irrigation water starting May 1, because it has been “identified as a meaningful risk factor for promoting the harborage and transmission of pathogens when not managed properly.” “The tragic illnesses and persistent negative publicity surrounding these (recalls) has eroded confidence in the healthy products the leafy greens industry produces every day and draws attention away from the food safety advancements made by many members of the leafy greens industry,” Taylor Farms President Mark Borman said in a news release. In most cases, Borman said, chlorine or chlorine dioxide will be used to treat the water.

Horsfall said just 1%-2% of growers in California are not members of the LGMA. That includes Adam Bros., according to the org.

Taylor Farms supports continued research in farming, manufacturing and transportation processes to address potential outbreaks, according to the release. “The success of our industry is dependent on the industry delivering safe and wholesome products,” Borman said in the release. “This is a critical next step.”

Horsfall said the next step for the LGMA is to educate the industry on what the new standards are and how to comply, through workshops and other educational outreach.

<https://www.thepacker.com/article/california-lgma-require-treatment-water-leafy-greens>

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,