

Regional Weather Forecast

Highs

Lows

Oxnard, CA

Sunshine and partly cloudy days. No rain on the forecast.



Salinas, CA

Sunshine and partly cloudy days with no rain on the forecast.



Santa Maria, CA

Sunny and partly cloudy.



Watsonville, CA

Partly cloudy and sunny next week.



Knoxville, TN

Partly cloudy with thunderstorms throughout the week.



Idaho Falls, ID

Sunny and partly cloudy.



Regional Transportation Report

National Diesel Average: **\$2.435**(wk 37)

2019 : **\$2.971**(wk 37)

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.

Regions with shortages:

Nationwide trucks are higher this week due to high demand and CA wildfire interruptions. Slight shortage in Central Minnesota. Shortage in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Minnesota, Idaho, Indiana, Illinois, Oregon and Washington.

Weekly Market Changes

Asparagus

Quality: **GOOD** Supply: **GOOD**



Volume on asparagus has improved and markets have steadied out. Demand and supply are balanced and expectation is to have solid numbers throughout the next couple months.

Avocados

Quality: **GOOD** Supply: **GOOD**



Overall the market is stable but we are seeing retail driving the market. Currently California, PE, and MX product have been in good supply. So far there has been sufficient quantity and quality of product crossing the border.

Bananas

Quality: **GOOD** Supply: **GOOD**



Overall there hasn't been much fluctuation in the banana market. Supply and quality have been good and freight costs have been level leaving the banana industry quite stable.

Berries, Mixed

Quality: **GOOD** Supply: **FAIR**



Blueberries- Blueberries took a slight increase over the past week as product has begun to end in the CA and PNW regions. There has been some product out of Cali and also import product coming in from Peru, but in small quantities. Packs are still 6oz and also Pint's and loading strong fruit on both coasts.

Raspberries- Razz have had a drop in market price recently as MX has begun and demand is expected to drop off after Labor Day. So far product is being harvested in California and MX with good quality and strong fruit coming from both regions. Promotable item as FOB's have dropped a few \$\$ over the passed week.

Blackberries- Blackberries should be following suit and becoming available out of MX just as rasp have been. Right now we are still seeing product on the East Coast from NC and also West Coast CA. Expect to see the market come down as MX begins and hopefully with better weather ahead of us we will see better quality. The heat has put a slight damper on markets but overall still holding on steady.

Broccoli **ALERT**

Quality: **BAD** Supply: **FAIR**



Broccoli Supplies will remain tight for this week. The recent heatwave has affected crops in the ground. Growers are reporting fair quality and expect some oxidation on the cut ends. Supplies are expected to be limited for a few weeks.

Brussels Sprouts

Quality: **GOOD** Supply: **GOOD**



Brussels Sprout supplies continue to be excellent out of Salinas. Growers are reporting very good yields at the time of harvest. Growers are reporting good quality at this time. Supplies are expected to remain steady for a few weeks.

Cantaloupe

Quality: **GOOD** Supply: **GOOD**



We have had some heat in the domestic growing regions leading to faster maturation and also bigger swings in markets. Right now we are heading into Sept/Oct when there is a stronger marketplace. As of now markets are still stable but can expect to see some slight increases.

Weekly Market Changes

Carrot Sticks



Quality: GOOD **Supply:** FAIR

COVID-19 has had an impact on value added carrots and the array of pack sizes and cuts available to the market. The additional labor and contact throughout the supply chain has put this item on the radar until supply can catch up with demand.

Cauliflower



Quality: FAIR **Supply:** FAIR

Cauliflower supplies are lower this week. The recent heatwave has caused supplies to slow down. Growers are reporting fair quality some yellowing on the heads. Supplies are expected to remain steady for a few weeks.

Celery



Quality: GOOD **Supply:** GOOD

Celery supplies are good this week. Growers are reporting good supplies at this time. Good quality is been reported at this time. Supplies are expected to remain steady for a few weeks.

Cilantro



Quality: GOOD **Supply:** GOOD

Cilantro supplies are good this week. Growers are expecting steady supplies the next few weeks. Good quality is been reported by multiple growers at this time. Demand for Cilantro has decreased this week.

Corn ALERT



Quality: GOOD **Supply:** BAD

Prices for Corn out of the West remains high. Supplies are tight on Yellow and Bi-Color corn. White Corn is the only variety that is available for the most part. Prices for all varieties of Corn is flat out of the East this week. Growers are reporting tighter supplies. The North East is experiencing cool weather this week and production is down.

Cucumbers

ALERT



Quality: FAIR **Supply:** BAD

Pricing for Slicing Cucumbers is trending up this week. Pricing for Hot House Cucumbers is trending up too. Supplies remain tight and are expected to remain the same for the next few weeks. Rain and wind are the main factors for quality and pricing.

Eggplant ALERT



Quality: FAIR **Supply:** BAD

Prices for Eggplant is trending up this week. Rain and cool weather is a factor on supplies with now.

Weekly Market Changes

Chinese Garlic

Quality: **GOOD** Supply: **FAIR**

Beginning to see better numbers as imports begin to loosen and there is supply between domestic, Spanish and China



Grapes

Quality: **GOOD** Supply: **GOOD**

We have made our way into domestic season and we are now seeing good volume in the open market. Price has come down as supply has picked up. We anticipate this to continue moving through August.



Green Beans

Quality: **GOOD** Supply: **GOOD**

Green Beans are have been steady for the past few weeks and do not foresee any immediate issues with supply or quality.



Honeydew

Quality: **GOOD** Supply: **GOOD**

We have had some heat in the domestic growing regions leading to faster maturation and also bigger swings in markets. Right now we area heading into Sept/Oct when there is a stronger marketplace. As of now markets are still stable but can expect to see some slight increases.



Iceberg

Quality: **FAIR** Supply: **FAIR**

Lettuce supplies are lower this week. The recent heatwave has affected crops in the ground. Growers are having to trim more cap leaves to remove heat and mildew damage. Supplies will be limited for a few weeks. Expect to see lighter weights next week.



Romaine Leaf

Quality: **FAIR** Supply: **BAD**

ALERT

Romaine supplies continues to be very light for this week. Romaine yields are down for this time of the year. Growers are reporting fair quality with fringe burn on the outer leaves. Supplies are expected to remain steady going into next week.



Red and Green Leaf

Quality: **GOOD** Supply: **GOOD**

Supply and quality have been good on both colors. Not seeing any issues on supply or quality at this time.



Weekly Market Changes

Tender Leaf

Quality: GOOD **Supply:** GOOD

Growers aren't reporting any issues on supply and quality has been fine. Look for this to continue for a few weeks.



Lemons

Quality: FAIR **Supply:** GOOD

Currently working with primarily import Chilean/Argentina lemons. The import fruit is in decent condition but is showing some pale and lighter color exterior. No supply gaps foreseen in the upcoming month.



Limes

Quality: GOOD **Supply:** GOOD

Limes spiked for a few weeks but have since stabilized. Markets are still slightly up and will likely hover on the higher end for a couple weeks and they make their way back level.



Onions

Quality: GOOD **Supply:** GOOD

Markets have been steady over the past few weeks as we have made our way back to new crop out of the OR and ID markets. Based on the current trajectory, we do not anticipate any significant issues in the coming weeks but we have seen a slight increase in FOB's with exports to MX taking on some supply. Also, freight out of the PNW has been up leading to slight increases in COG's.



Green Onions

Quality: GOOD **Supply:** GOOD

Good quality and good yields reported by multiple growers. Prices are back to normal and not escalated.



Oranges

Quality: GOOD **Supply:** FAIR

Currently working through summer Valencia season, and tend to be a smaller fruit but this year and are sizing up to larger sizes and leaving the 113/138 market more limited. Chilean import Navels are seeing larger fruit as well as most are 88ct or larger. Import fruit will continue till Oct. The market is also being pushed up some with USDA food boxes grabbing a large chunk of open market supply.



Peppers, Bell

Quality: GOOD **Supply:** FAIR

Green Peppers - Green Pepper pricing is trending again this week. Growers continue to report challenges with production due to rain and winds over the last 4 weeks.

Yellow and Red Peppers - Pricing for Red Peppers is trending down a bit this week. Costing for Yellow Peppers is still high but steady.



Weekly Market Changes

Pineapple

ALERT



Quality: **FAIR** Supply: **BAD**

Volumes for the next few weeks are going to be very low. Weather has been the major causation as major rains have followed with hot high sun. This has caused off the chart brix level and bent crowns. Weather conditions like this can cause misshaped crowns and puts pressure on lower yields.

Potatoes



Quality: **GOOD** Supply: **GOOD**

The potato market has come back down as we have made the transition to OR and ID new crop. Supply is good and quality is back to solid condition. With new crop availability, there should not be any major issues moving through September.

Summer Squash

Quality: **GOOD** Supply: **FAIR**



Prices for Yellow Squash is trending up and pricing for Green Squash was flat this week. Rain and cool weather will be a factor on supplies going forward.

Strawberries

ALERT



Quality: **FAIR** Supply: **BAD**

Pricing is across the board as many different factors are coming into play, trending in the upwards direction. Northern CA growing regions are still going and Santa Maria has begun as well. Depending on where the berry is coming from is affecting market prices. Santa Maria is lower volume as it starts up so markets are slightly up. The heat wave and fires definitely had an impact on supply issues as well. Some growers are losing 15-30% of production due to quality. We can expect to see a jump next week as supplies tighten up and produce houses bulk up before the jump. Demand is also moving frequently as schools and restaurants begin to order nationwide.

Tomatoes

Quality: **GOOD** Supply: **GOOD**



Prices for Round Tomatoes are trending up this week. Prices for Roma's is trending flat this week. Growers are reporting challenges with cool weather rains in many of the growing areas.

Watermelon

Quality: **GOOD** Supply: **GOOD**



Overall supply has been stable and no quality issues detected. Supply is slightly down from from previous weeks but is about in line with historical patterns.

Industry Report

Leafy Greens Growers Prepare for Yuma, Beef Up Safety Measures

The Packer: September 9, 2020

As leafy greens growers prepare to move from California's Central Coast region to the desert regions of California and Yuma, Ariz., to start fall/winter production, they're taking extra precautions, according to the California Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement.

In recent years, E. coli outbreaks traced to leafy greens harvested during the transition period have forced the LGMAs for the states to enact stricter measures.

"As we approach the fall transition when patterns have emerged in recent years, everyone is taking additional precautions to prevent potential problems," Scott Horsfall, CEO of the California LGMA, said in a news release.

That includes ramping up inspections. The California Department of Food and Agriculture, which is designated by the Food and Drug Administration to conduct the inspections, is adding more personnel to increase on-farm visits over the next several months.

Dan Sutton, a grower and LGMA chairman, said 2020 has been challenging enough for consumers, growers and farm workers.

"As farmers, we're doing everything possible to make sure our crops are farmed safely and we're working together with government, food safety experts and the produce industry to keep people safe," Sutton said in the release.

The LGMA released a list of 10 actions growers are taking to keep leafy greens safe.

"These activities are designed to improve leafy greens safety now and into the future," Horsfall said in the release.

The LGMA's '10 things being done to make leafy greens safer:

- LGMA food safety audits are ongoing during COVID-19
- The California LGMA is intensifying audits during the season transition, with every member being audited at least once between now and November
- LGMA members must be in compliance with all 300-plus food safety checkpoints during on-farm audits
- Irrigation standards passed in 2019 are being implemented and enforced (there are 92 checkpoints dealing exclusively with water safety)
- Training and education is taking place for standards on water use and field/equipment that were approved in August
- State agencies are monitoring compost used on leafy greens farms
- Arizona and California state inspectors are visiting farms to ensure they comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act's Produce Safety Rule
- Research continues to learn more about potential risks in growing leafy greens
- The LGMA mandates and verifies through audits that members have a traceability system in place
- The LGMA supports a Leafy Greens Traceability Pilot to improve traceback through the supply chain

More changes to LGMA standards will be coming in the near future, Horsfall said.

"Most importantly, we are looking closely at the LGMA's required food safety practices for the proximity of animals to leafy greens farms in light of findings from FDA investigations into past outbreaks," he said in the release. "We have already increased buffer zones required between animal operations and our farms. Additional changes are being considered now."

The California LGMA conducted a web seminar Sept. 1 to provide information on LGMA practices. Participants included representatives of the two LGMAs, Sonia Salas, Western Growers assistant vice president of food safety, science and technology; Natalie Krout-Greenberg of the California Department of Food and Agriculture Inspection Services Director; and Jennifer McEntire, senior vice president of food safety and technology for the United Fresh Produce Association.