



WEATHER UPDATE

Salinas— Sunny to partly cloudy next week. Highs in the mid-70s and lows in the 50s. **Oxnard**— Mostly sunny next week with highs in the 70s and lows in the 60s. **Mexico (Culiacan)**— Sunny to partly cloudy next week with chances of storms all weekend through Monday, with more storms rolling in next Saturday. Highs in the 90s and lows in the 70s. **Florida, Southern**— Sunny to partly cloudy with chances of storms starting Wednesday thru next weekend. Highs in the 90s and lows in the 70s. **Idaho**— Sunny to partly cloudy next week with chances of thunderstorms Sunday & AM showers on Wednesday. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the 40s.

TRANSPORTATION

The National Diesel Average has been recorded at \$2.976 down \$0.007 a gal from last week and down \$0.292 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 in most of the country, however there are slight shortages in Delaware, Maryland, Eastern Shore Virginia, SW Indiana, & SE Illinois.**

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MARKET ALERT

- APPLES— FUJIS
- ASPARAGUS
- BROCCOLI
- BRUSSELS SPROUTS
- CARROTS
- COLORED BELL PEPPERS
- LIMES
- POTATOES
- ROMAINE HEARTS
- SWEET POTATOES



MARKET OUTLOOK

Apples



ALERT: Fujis apples are extremely short and the new crop is expected to start 9/16. Wash State going strong on new crop with Galas, and in a light way on Honeyes. Gold Delicious will started packing on 9/2.

Asparagus



Volumes are improving. Jumbo & xl are still under possible prorates but not as bad. Prices are still extremely high, and volume remains short. Central Mexico is done for the season & Baja, Mexico has improved this past week with better weather. Weather in Peru has become warmer & production has improved as well. This trend should continue, and markets should improve in the next couple of weeks.

Avocados



Markets are steady on most sizes. There's been some correction over the last week on 48's & larger coming down, while 60's & smaller stayed steady or strengthened a little bit. Supply is good out of Mexico & should stay that way over the next few weeks. #2 fruit continues to stay very tight & a lot of shippers are subbing in #1 fruit to cover those orders. Peru & CA will clean up over the next week or so. When that happens orders will revert to Mexico & there could be some strength in markets, as demand increases. Chile is sending in a little bit of fruit, but not enough to replace what Peru & California do.

Bananas



The markets is mainly steady this week. Supplies are good with good quality.

Berries



Blackberries -Production has slightly increased. Yields are good out West with better numbers crossing into the U.S. from Mexico. **Blueberries** -The Pacific NW is winding down with OR & WA virtually finished. BC continues to produce although they're well past peak season. MI will continue to produce their later varieties well into October. Mexico is beginning to cross greater numbers through the McAllen TX area. Offshore imports from Argentina & Peru are beginning to arrive & will increase in the following weeks. Expect the market to vary from growing region to growing region according to quality & crop age. Michigan, Mexico & imports are commanding a premium due to the superior quality. **Raspberries** -Availability is for the most part flat. The market is holding steady. Expect supplies to increase as the Mexican season picks up in the upcoming weeks.

MARKET OUTLOOK

Broccoli



MARKET ALERT



Supplies are extremely limited this week due to lower yields and very high demand, this has caused a gap with supplies. Expect markets to stay escalated for a few weeks. Good quality has been reported at this time.

Brussels Sprouts



MARKET ALERT



Better supplies this week on Brussel sprouts. Markets are still escalated, we are hoping the better supplies will help improve the markets. Quality is also improving with growers facing quality issues the last couple of weeks.

Cauliflower



Supplies continue to be steady for this week. Markets are also expected to stay steady going into next week. Good quality has been reported at this time.

Cantaloupes



Production has dropped off significantly throughout the valley. Slightly cooler weather & strong demand over the holiday weekend has left scarce supplies this week. Simultaneous delays in planting has caused a slight skip for the current week as new fields are scheduled to be broken by early next week with most growers. As we enter the Fall period you can anticipate less overall weekly volume hitting the market which should keep pricing mostly stabilized in the higher single digits. Sizing of what is being harvested is heavily slanted to the larger fruit leaving 12/15s in a limited availability situation.

Carrots



MARKET ALERT



Jumbo carrots are limited. If the Cuyama Valley do not size up this could turn a short market for an extended amount of time. Expect pro-rates for the next week or two.

Celery



Very good supplies on celery for this week. Markets are also expected to be steady going into next week. Good quality is being reported with multiple growers.

Corn



Markets are going up out East due to lighter supplies out of Indiana, Southern Illinois, & Iowa; New York & Michigan are ramping up. Active markets in the west as well. Northern California is harvesting right now. Quality has been fair to good.

MARKET OUTLOOK



Cucumbers



Cucumber supplies are good this week. Baja's volume has started picking up as growers move into new crops. There's a lot of larger fruit available & quality has been good. Expect to see steady volume for at least the next week. Eastern cucumbers are available in several states, & quality is good from most areas. Eastern NC will start up with fall crops over the weekend or early next week. This should provide a pretty good increase in volume as some of the other local areas see production start to decline.

Eggplant



Eggplant is readily available in the Central Valley and Washington State for the West. Several states in the East are producing eggplants too. Prices are forecasted to remain steady. Quality has been good on both sides of the country, but there are occasional issues on older crops.

Grapes



Scarlet Royal, Krissy, Magenta will be main varieties for the next month then it will be Scarlet Royal and Allison the rest of the way. Movement has been solid on good condition fruit.

Green Beans



The market is steady to up this week. Domestic green beans are lighter this week due to suppliers experiencing harvest gaps. Quality ranges from fair to good depending on growing region.

Herbs



Chervil remains limited this week. The heat wave of the past several weeks is what caused the shortage, but cooler weather is entering the growing region for this very sensitive herb. **All other herbs are steady with good quality.**

Honeydews



Honeydew production remains consistent. Sizing remains mostly evenly split between 5/6s which optimal except for limited 8ct. We do not anticipate much of a change on the honeydew production for the next 7-10 days.

MARKET OUTLOOK



Iceberg



Better supplies on iceberg lettuce this week. Demand is still high this week, we expect the markets to remain active going into next week. Good quality is being reported at this time.

Kale



Good supplies on green kale for this week. Expect markets to be steady going into next week. Good quality is being reported with multiple growers.



Leaf



ALERT: Romaine Hearts – The market continues to be active on romaine hearts and demand continues to strengthen. Processors are pulling more volume with schools starting up. Good quality is being reported, but some reports of fringe, wind burn, & light twist. **Romaine Lettuce** - Supplies have slightly improved this week. Demand is still high this week, we expect the markets to be steady going into next week. Good quality is being reported at this time. **Green Leaf/ Red Leaf/ Butter (Boston) Lettuce**- Good supplies continue this week on these leaf lettuces. Markets are expected to remain steady going into next week. Good quality is being reported at this time.

Tender Leaf



The market continues to be steady. Salinas Valley continues to produce better yields. Expect the market and volume to remain steady going into next week. No quality issues have been reported.



Lemons & Limes



EXTREME ALERT: Limes– Supplies continue to be extremely tight and the market continues to rise each week. This is all due to the drought conditions in the growing regions, the industry is getting light pack-outs and minimal crossings. The outlook moving forward depends on the weather in Mexico, without any rain we won't see improvement until the next 4-6 weeks. The weather patterns are not expected to change soon, & we expect a very active market through the end of the year. Markets are expected to rise moving forward until supplies improve.

Lemons – Supplies are steady with good quality. Good supplies out of both the East & West coast with the majority being imports. FOBs range from mid-\$20s to \$40s. Seeing better supplies on larger fruit than small. No quality issues have been reported.

MARKET OUTLOOK



Onions



QUALITY



SUPPLY



The onion markets are beginning to stabilize. Quality is good, along with good demand. Fobs steady to low around \$7 for jbo red and yellow, whites around \$13. The NW regions are in good supply & have excellent quality. Super colossal & colossal yellow are tight, but improving as we move into Sept. Overall, The Idaho/Oregon crop appears to be normal, with some regions down in yields a bit more than others. We believe there will be strong supply and quality throughout the season, but not a surplus of supply at any point.

Onions, Green



QUALITY



SUPPLY



Steady supplies continue coming from Mexico this week. Markets are expected to stay steady going into next week. Good quality is also being reported at this time.

Oranges



QUALITY



SUPPLY



The market is steady to high. Domestic small fruit continues to remain tight & the markets continue to rise weekly, as school demand increases. Imported navels are steady with good quality. Expect domestic supply to remain tight through September. Quality out of California is good.

Pears



QUALITY



SUPPLY



Barts are now available with sizes peaking on 100/110/120ct. California Anjou's are still available - there will be no gap between CA and New Crop. New crop Washington D'Anjou harvesting will begin in September. Quality is excellent.



Peppers, Bell



QUALITY



SUPPLY



ALERT: Red & Yellow Bell Peppers- The market is steady to lower this week due to yields increasing out of CA. However, supplies continue to be limited & pricing remains elevated this week in both regions. Overall quality is reported to be good.

Green Bell Peppers- Prices continue to drop for a second week. Supplies continue to improve in all growing regions. MX & CA are supplying the West. The East is supplied with growing areas from the Carolinas to Michigan during summer harvests.

Peppers, Chili



QUALITY



SUPPLY



The market remains steady with good volumes on chilis this week. California & Mexico continue producing good volumes. Expect the market to remain steady through the week. The East continues along steady with small local deals. Quality is good.

Pineapples



QUALITY



SUPPLY



The market remains steady and demand continues to be strong as schools are back in session. Supplies remain low but have improved out of both regions on crowned sizes. Expect supplies to improve in another week or so. Quality is good.

MARKET OUTLOOK

MARKET ALERT

QUALITY



SUPPLY



Potatoes



ALERT: The markets remain around \$21. The Idaho markets are slowly dropping but this crop is small, yields are down, and big spuds remain tight. We head to Idaho Monday and will share that trip. Quality should be good but it's going to be an interesting year. Expect the market to remain high and tight for the next few weeks.

ALERT: SWEET POTATOES— The market remains tight, though the new crop is being harvested and the dry pipeline is being filled, but most of it is uncured. NC has harvested about 15-20% as they wait for the hurricane to pass. Some rain would be good but too much will have an impact. Expect supplies to improve in the next 2-4 weeks.

Squash



QUALITY



SUPPLY



There's lots of product available in the East particularly on yellow. New production starts over the weekend in Eastern NC. Quality has been good but expect to see some impact after the storm passes. To the West, Santa Maria has steady volume as they move into their last fields. Availability is expected to continue through the month of September. Both Salinas & Fresno growing areas are forecasted to harvest limited numbers for the next few weeks. Baja is in a gap and is expected to be back in the next 7-10 days.

Strawberries



QUALITY



SUPPLY



The market continues to increase due to limited supplies out of California. Salinas & Watsonville's yields have gradually dropped, while the new crop out of Santa Maria is slowly ramping up & volumes are not enough to counter the lower numbers coming out of Northern CA. Expect the market to remain strong for the next few weeks. Quality is average out of most shipping areas, but the newer fruit in Santa Maria is nice with larger sizing.

Tomatoes



QUALITY



SUPPLY



Although there are multiple areas in production, tomato volumes are light to moderate in the East this week. There's fruit in North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, & Michigan. Production is down for farms that harvested plantings early due to heat bringing them on ahead of schedule. Availability is expected to strengthen when Virginia comes back online with fall plantings during the 1st week of September. Most California growers with mature greens have been working partial weeks & have reduced volumes due to heat. Vine ripe tomatoes from Baja & Eastern Mexico continue slowly cross the border.

Watermelons



QUALITY



SUPPLY



Demand has dropped dramatically following Labor Day, but that is in line with the past years. It looks like volume actually bumped up above the average for the first time in a little while, though it's not a massive amount. Prices continued downward but showing more of a holding pattern than any sort of large drop. The seedless watermelon supplies remain tight which is causing the market to firm up. Expect seedless supplies to remain on the lighter side through the remainder of the season.



MARKET OUTLOOK

Lower yields, smaller size profile, but good quality seen for 2019 Idaho potato harvest

<http://www.producenews.com/the-produce-news-today-s-headlines/27464-lower-yields-smaller-size-profile-but-good-quality-seen-for-2019-idaho-potato-harvest> BY RAND GREEN | SEPTEMBER 04, 2019

With the 2019 potato harvest under way as of August in the earlier fields, the Idaho Potato Commission is projecting that the state will harvest just under 309,000 acres of potatoes this year, down about 1 percent from a year ago. “Significant weather issues” around planting time, including some late frosts, “have definitely had an impact, at least in some areas, on tuber size and yield,” said Frank Muir, president and chief executive officer of the commission. “We are obviously not going to have a huge bumper crop.” The two biggest shipping years in the last 10 have been the past two years, Muir said. Shipments from the 2018 harvest were just wrapping up in mid-August. “We are anticipating we will finish a little under 38 million hundred-weight,” down just slightly from the year before, he said. The anticipated lower yield this year “will take us off of the current trend line of yields going north.”

However, he said there has been no indication that quality will be adversely affected by the early weather problems. With good quality and lower yields, and with the commission moving forward on its demand-building programs, “I think ... this year’s pricing will be very strong for potato growers” with large potatoes in particular being a premium.

But, he added, “Until we get the potatoes all out of the ground, it is hard to say for sure” what the yields, the size profile, or even the quality will be. Growers and shippers with whom *The Produce News* spoke were in general agreement that the harvest is running approximately a week behind normal due to weather-related delays at planting time yields and size profile in many early fields are trending below normal. However, they are in agreement that quality is looking good.

Derek Peterson, vice president of sales and marketing for Wilcox Fresh in Rexburg, ID, said the new crop was “a little behind” due to June frost, and yields appear to be lower, particularly on Norkotahs. But “growing conditions have been very good” since, and “quality looks good,” he said. “We’ll be digging Burbanks here at the end of September. We grow a few reds as well. Quality looks good.” They are also a little behind and will probably start in October.

Steve Elfering, vice president of operations at Potandon Produce LLC in Idaho Falls, ID, said that the size profile of the crop in the early fields was running significantly smaller than normal, but he was hopeful that with more growing time, the later fields would have better size. The weather has been good during the growing season, and the quality of the potatoes looks good, he said.

Kevin Stanger, president of Wada Farms Marketing Group LLC in Idaho Falls, said that quality looks good, but yields are off a little in the early lots. With regard to size profile, he is seeing some lots running smaller than normal, but others that have normal sizing. “The season has done really well for us,” said Coleman Oswald, sales manager at Eagle Eye Produce in Idaho Falls. “We were one of the very first potato warehouses in the state of Idaho to get into new crop,” starting russets on Aug. 5, reds the week of Aug. 12 and yellows the week of Aug. 19. “The crop has been coming along nicely. With the cool, wet spring, the size profile that we anticipate coming out of the ground is definitely going to be a bit on the smaller size, which would mimic what we saw last season. So we anticipate prices to be healthy” with larger sizes bring a premium.

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

