

## MARKET ALERT



September 9, 2022

**Potatoes:** Market continues to hold at unprecedented prices with USDA FOBs holding at \$44 on big spuds. As suppliers get a little further into harvest there is not only a concern on yields but a major size profile concern. We had a very cool spring and the start to the summer was unseasonably cool. We had below normal temperatures which resulted in below normal soil temperatures this didn't allow for us to get an early plant. Once the potatoes did get planted, we got a couple of freezes that set the plants back in growth. We then went from very cool weather to incredibly warm in the mid to high 90's for several weeks. When we hit the high 90's that early in the plants development the plants switched from growth mode to survival mode and this stalled their growth pattern. Lastly as there became a shortage this late summer numerous growers killed early and lost size and yield to get some new crop product on the market. These three things have caused a major shortage in large count sizes (40-80 count). We will keep you updated as harvest continues, especially getting into burbanks etc. Recommend being flexible with sizing as needed to ensure supply.

**Oranges:** Valencia and Navels transition is approaching but with not good news. It is almost eminent that California will experience a 3-week gap at the end of September until Navels start around October 20<sup>th</sup>. We encourage all to possible substitute with another citrus or fruit. Valencia is showing to be 25%-30% down as an industry peaking on smaller fruit. Chile had a freeze and lost a large % of their late navels which usually come in September and October. Florida is hopeful to start first week of October.

**Broccoli:** Supplies are light this week . Market is definitely more active. Demand has also increased. Market pricing has increased and we should expect for pricing to continue climbing going into next week. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$20.68 - \$21.68). Quality is fair.



September 9, 2022

**Lettuce, Green Leaf:** Supplies continue to be very light this week. Quality will only be fair with occasional fringe burn and occasional presence of seeder. Warm weather continues in Salinas, we will continue to see Heavy Bug Pressure. Market pricing will continue to stay escalated going into next week. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$23.90 - \$23.43)

**Lettuce, Iceberg:** Supplies continue to be extremely limited for next week. Overall quality is been reported as only fair at best at this time. Weights are expected to be on the lighter side. We are experiencing some quality issues at field level due to plant fungus. Yields will be highly impacted by fungus (Fusarium). (F.O.B pricing for this week \$26.25 - \$27.25)

**Lettuce, Romaine/Hearts:** Supplies will continue to be extremely limited for next week. Overall quality continues to be a challenge. We are seeing the affect of the INSV virus in the Romaine fields. Average weights and only fair to poor quality is to be expected next week. (Romaine pricing for this week \$26.45- \$27.00) (Romaine Hearts pricing for this week \$31.85 - \$33.63)

**Green Onions:** Supplies will continue to be extremely short this week. Market pricing will continue to be escalated going into next week. Green onions are coming from Mexico at this time. Growers in Mexico are experiencing extreme limited supplies due to young plants dying due to extreme heat conditions. Quality is fair. Shortage of labor is also adding to limited harvest affecting supplies. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$39.00- \$39.58)

**Mushrooms:** 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 is escalated due to Labor, Transportation, and packaging. Shiitakes affected due to imported logs.

## MARKET ALERT



September 9, 2022

**Tomatoes :** Prices for 20 lb Tomatoes are trending up this week. Prices for 25 lb Rounds, Grapes, Cherries and Romas are trending down. Many growers are transitioning from Summer to Fall crops and that's causing gaps in availability. Growers are forecasting tight supplies going forward for the unforeseeable future.

**Bell Peppers, Red & Yellow:** Prices for Green, Red and Yellow Peppers are trending up this week. Availability on Bell Peppers is pretty much weather driven right now. Expect gaps from areas impacted by heat & rain.

**Chili Peppers:** Prices for Chili Peppers are mostly trending up this week. Serrano and Anaheim Peppers are extremely tight right now. Supplies remain tight out of the Northeast. Mexico has managed to keep up with demands but is facing supply gaps due to heat & rains. Expect tight supplies during the weeks to come.

**Eggplant:** Prices for Eggplant are stable this week but remain elevated. Supplies are still inconsistent due to weather. Growers are expecting tight supplies for at least the next couple weeks.

**Strawberries:** Prices for Strawberries are trending down this week. At the same time growers are forecasting less supplies for the next 4 weeks down to the impact of heat in California. Keep an eye on quality and expect reduced shelf life due to possible heat damage.

**Raspberries:** Prices for Raspberries are trending up this week. Growers are expecting reduced volumes due to heat in California. Please keep product turns tight due to possible quality challenges as well as lowered shelf life due to heat.