

VITCO FOODS

March 1, 2024



Market Alerts

Apples – The apple market continues to putt along at normal levels on most varieties. Galas and Honey Crisp remain slightly elevated.

Asparagus – Asparagus continues to be extremely limited on both coasts. Especially on the larger sizes. Look for supplies to continue to be very limited through next week.

Avocados – Supplies remain tight as MX fruit begins to come in; pipeline is still dry as fruit is hand to mouth once it arrives into the US. Markets are expected to remain high until pipeline fills up.

Bell Peppers – Bell pepper supplies have been light out of Nogales mainly due to cooler temperatures. Sizing is on the smaller side. Colored bells still very limited. Florida green bells are fairly steady.

Berries (Blackberries) – Steady as she goes no changes in this market

Berries (Blueberries) – The market is easing off a bit with lighter demand and more south American container arrivals.

Berries (Raspberries) – The market remains flat on this item with good quality being reported out of Baja and Central Mexico.

Berries (Strawberries) – The market is off due to much lighter demand with 3 different growing regions still producing. Santa Maria and Oxnard will experience cooler weather this week while Mexico is past peak production. Florida still has a few weeks left to go depending on weather.

Broccoli – Broccoli supplies continue to be good and steady in Yuma and Santa Maria as the market has slowly adjusted downward. Supplies out of Mexico continue to be limited this week due to the cold weather in recent weeks.

Brussels Sprouts – Brussels Sprout supplies and quality continue to improve. Look for this market to continue to trend lower going into next week.

Continued

Carrots – Production on baby carrot packstyles is still lagging behind demand. Jumbo and cello carrots are still in light supplies due to smaller sizing being harvested in current fields. Mexican jumbo carrots are a viable option for coverage coming through Texas.

Cauliflower – Cauliflower supplies continue to be limited especially on 9s. The cooler weather has slowed growth in the Yuma area. Look for this market to continue to stay on the higher side going into the weekend.

Celery – This market is firm. Large sizing, twenty-four counts in particular are the lightest in availability, however most orders are being filled. Expect this market to get tighter next week with production expected to be on the lighter side due to cold weather. The overall quality continues to be above average with most shippers.

Citrus (Lemons) – Supplies are steady out of the Central Valley. Ventura County and Yuma will continue to trickle in.

Citrus (Limes) – Limes prices continue to escalate, supplies are extremely limited as minimal fruit are crossing thru S. Texas. Expect market to continue to escalate into next week.

Citrus (Oranges) - Supplies remain very limited on 113's and 138's this week and are expected to remain tight through the rest of the navel season. We may need to sub sizes around or move orders a day to help fill in full. Markets will remain firm due to the limited availability. We highly encourage sending orders in advance to help secure orders.

Cucumbers – Supply improved slightly this week but availability remains limited ion FL and MX. Overall quality is good out of Nogales. Florida continues to struggle with port delays.

Eggplant – Supply limited in FI this week. Mexican Supply is somewhat steady.

Garlic – California supplies remain tight. Imports from China will help offset in a minor way. Pricing is higher and quality is good.

Continued

Grapes (Green) – Finally we have some inventory on grapes. Not a ton, but more than at anytime since the start of the year. Green grapes are still tighter than red grapes. The West coast is still tighter than the east.

Grapes (Red) – Finally we have some inventory on grapes. Not a ton, but more than at anytime since the start of the year. Green grapes are still tighter than red grapes. The West coast is still tighter than the east.

Green Onions – Green Onion supplies continue to improve. Look for this market to continue to adjust downward going into next week.

Kale – Steady supplies are keeping this market level. Watch this market closely with this past rain storm.

Lettuce (Iceberg) – Production continues to be steady with this commodity, but multiple shippers are expecting stronger markets next week. For this week, multiple suppliers are flexing for larger orders. Discoloration and pinking have been reported. Weights are averaging thirty-seven to forty two pounds. Expect steady supplies for the week.

Lettuce Leaf – Romaine supplies have tightened up with all suppliers. Blister and peel as well as fringe burn is being reported from multiple shippers. Yields have been affected dramatically. Green and red leaf will be steady in availability all week. Romaine hearts have tightened up in availability as well. Expect stronger markets next week on all romaine and leaf items.

Lettuce Tender Leaf – Quality continues to battle light mechanical damage from the rain and cooler weather but overall fair to good quality with texture and size within spec. Look for this market to stay steady.

Melons (Cantaloupe) – Market mostly steady. Good overall volume and quality. Small sizes very tight. Better supplies on the east coast than the west.

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Melons (Honeydew) – Market steady on fair supplies. Inventories much better on the east coast than on the west. Smaller sizes tight. Some range in quality. Expect this to continue into next week.

Melons (Watermelon) – Market steady on light supplies.

Mushrooms – Availability is improving, prices remain elevated.

Onions – Market remains extreme on all colors and sizes.

Pears – Market steady. The crop is light on our favored sizes and grade but mediocre demand is keeping the market from taking off. Expect this market to perk up.

Pineapples – Lower volume continues on the pineapple front. Fruit quality is good right now with no issues forecasted for the near future.

Potatoes – Cold weather has caused loading delays in Idaho. Markets are steady, deals on 40-60CT cartons and 6 ounce #2s.

Squash – Ample supply on zucchini this week and steady on yellow in both FL and MX.

Stone Fruit – Imported nectarines and small amounts of imported peaches and apricots now landing on both coasts. Plums should start arriving late this week or next. More availability on the east coast as the west coast ports continue to be back logged. The kiwi market continues to climb as shippers try to stretch their domestic crop thru March with imports scheduled to start in April.

Continued

Tomatoes – Markets remain steady with light to moderate demand. Good availability on both coasts but expect lighter supplies in early March out of FL.

Weather

California – Weak high pressure returns tomorrow allowing temps to warm near to slightly above average while conditions stay dry through the end of the month.

Mexico – Seasonal temps will continue through tomorrow. Slightly cooler Friday, warmer this Saturday through March 3rd. Temps then cool off March 4-5th. Beyond a few isolated showers anticipate relatively dry weather conditions into early March.

Florida – Slow moving system forms over the Mississippi Valley tomorrow with high pressure remaining over the state. Temps near normal for the northern peninsula, above further south.

Arizona – Currently raining this morning in Yuma followed by widespread lettuce ice tomorrow and Friday. Afternoon highs will remain below normal due to a passing cold system. Warmer beginning of March as high pressure ridge slowly builds.

A Peek at Peak Seasons



Blackberries (Past Peak Season)

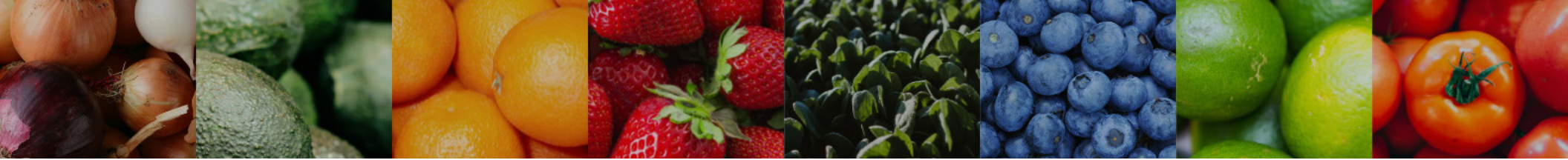
Blueberries (Past Peak Season)

Freight

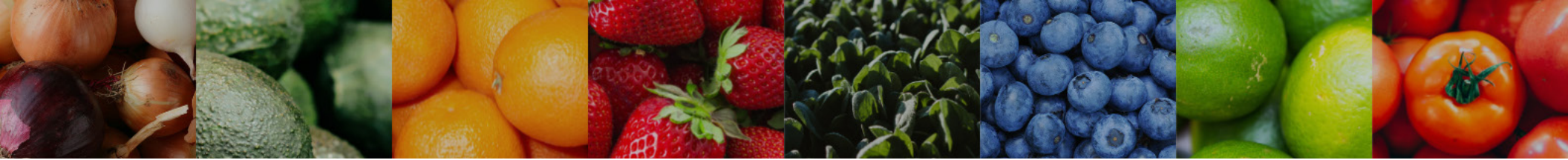
Trucks remain steady out of CA and AZ. Northwest remains tight and expensive. The national average is up slightly and currently at 4.055 per gallon.

Commodities at a Glance

 APPLES	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 CITRUS (LEMONS)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 MELON (CANTALOUPE)	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 ASPARAGUS	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 CITRUS (LIMES)	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 MELON (HONEYDEW)	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 AVOCADO	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 CITRUS (ORANGES)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 MELON (WATERMELON)	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BELL PEPPERS	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 CUCUMBERS	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 MUSHROOM	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BERRIES (BLACKBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 EGGPLANT	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 ONIONS	Quality is fair, pricing is higher
 BERRIES (BLUEBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 GARLIC	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 PEARS	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BERRIES (RASPBERRIES)	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	 GRAPES (GREEN)	Quality is good, pricing is lower	 PINEAPPLES	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BERRIES (STRAWBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing is lower	 GRAPES (RED)	Quality is good, pricing is lower	 POTATOES	Quality is good, pricing is lower
 BROCCOLI	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	 GREEN ONIONS	Quality is fair, pricing is lower	 SQUASH	Quality is good, pricing is lower
 BRUSSELS SPROUTS	Quality is fair, pricing is lower	 KALE	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 STONE FRUIT	Quality is fair, pricing is lower
 CARROTS	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 LETTUCE ICEBERG	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	 TOMATOES	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 CAULIFLOWER	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	 LETTUCE LEAF	Quality is fair, pricing is steady		
 CELERY	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	 LETTUCE TENDER LEAF	Quality is fair, pricing is steady		



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