

Labatt **FOOD SERVICE** *Produce Department*

650 Regal Row

Dallas, TX 75247

(214) 638-4141 or 1-800-324-5252 ext 7396

Director of Produce.....Clyde Jenkins
Asst. Produce Manager.....Juan Rios
Produce Specialist-Central and East Texas.....Leslie West
Produce Specialist-West and South Texas.....Kara Brooks
Produce Specialist-Dallas-Fort Worth Area.....Myka Nichols
Produce Specialist-New Mexico.....Libbiey Lill
Produce Buyer.....Jerry Martinez
Produce Buyer –New Mexico.....Ernie Sierra
Produce Buyer-New Mexico.....Bob Riddle
Produce Supervisor-Dallas.....Michael Espinoza

MARKET REPORT: JUNE 4, 2010

We appreciate your business. Please let us know if you have any questions. Have a great weekend!

PRODUCE NEWS

APPLES/PEARS

Washington continues to peak on larger and higher grade red and golden delicious with the smaller and lower grade fruit supplies tighter. Markets on both varieties are steady and strong, prices are rising slowly as the eastern-apples finish for the season. Foodservice sizes and grades remain very limited in all varieties and will start to get tighter. D' Anjou Pear supplies have decreased and the market is strong, we are nearing the end of the season. Most shippers only have #1 product available and quality has been holding nicely. Domestic fruit prices are expected to continually climb this summer. New crop California Bartlett will be available in July.

AVOCADOS

California growers are still harvesting good supplies, but experiencing problems with size. Trees are loaded with smaller fruit; size is slowly improving as the weather gets warmer. Harvest continues at a steady pace. Mexico has already shipped 85% of their crop and their season is winding down. There are lighter crossings this season due to Mexico consuming a larger percentage of their crop this year within its own borders.

BELL PEPPERS

Mexico supplies are quickly winding down and their season will come to an end over the next 5-7 days. California desert has hit their peak and demand is good, their season will also start to wind down over the next 2 weeks. Bakersfield is anticipated to start mid-June. Red and yellow bells are limited in Mexico due to most growers having already finished for the season. California colored bells should start producing volume next week. Florida peppers are finished and Georgia is just getting started. Florida pricing will start to drop off as they finish up and Georgia prices will be slightly higher until more supplies are available.

BROCCOLI, CAULIFLOWER and CELERY

Broccoli market is steady and supplies are expected to start improving late this week. Temperatures in the growing areas are getting warmer allowing for quality to improve. **Cauliflower** market is a little softer. Warmer temperatures have allowed for stronger production numbers. Growers and plantings vary across the regions which could cause the market to fluctuate over the next several weeks. **Celery** market is stable and quality remains good.

CITRUS

Lemons: Pricing is steady with demand increasing every week, quality remains good.

Limes: Larger fruit remains limited, supplies are getting better on the smaller fruit.

Oranges: Valencia quality is good and pricing has remained consistent.

CUCUMBERS

Mexico supplies are good and they should produce steady supplies through mid-June. Georgia is producing steady volume and demand has kept prices at current levels. Quality has been good and the market should remain steady.

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GRAPES

Chilean supplies are drying up as Mexico and California are starting to produce better volume. The new supplies coming online are allowing for some price relief in the market.

MELONS

Cooler temperatures have kept the sugar content lower on cantaloupes causing harvests to be delayed. Most shippers have limited supplies; Mexico is finishing up with Nogales supplies limited. Honeydew has been experiencing similar weather issues, California supplies are limited and Arizona is just starting to come online.

LEAF LETTUCE

Romaine prices are competitive with good supplies. Warmer temperatures, mixed with the rain have made leaf lettuce vulnerable to mildew and tip burn. Many growers have also planted less green leaf in comparison to romaine this season.

LETTUCE

Market is firm due to suppliers reporting light to moderate production throughout this week. The market could get active with any major spike or push. Warm weather and rain has caused irregular growth patterns. Mildew and tip burn will be seen in some lots in the coming week. Suppliers are cleaning up product as best as possible.

ONIONS

The Texas valley has finished for the season. The "Wintergarden" district of Texas is still packing a few yellows, whites, and reds but supplies are light and pricing is steady. The quality has ranged between good and average. Vidalia, Georgia continues packing and has fairly even size-distribution amongst colossal, jumbos, and mediums with good quality. California's Imperial Valley continues packing all colors but the volume is lower and this will be their last week of packing. The majority of the California desert shippers will finish by the end of this week or beginning of next week. Quality is good on all colors and they are sizing larger. California's San Joaquin valley has started packing all colors with light volume. More supplies will become available going into next week. Central California onions are heavy on medium and jumbo sizes in all colors. New Mexico is running all colors and volume is down slightly on whites and reds with yellows steady. Prices are expected to trend downward by the end of the week as more shippers start packing in both California and New Mexico.

POTATOES

Idaho potatoes continue to peak on 100/120's. Larger counts are premium priced and will remain so for the balance of the storage season. The market for all counts is steady along with demand. Most packers are still asking for 2-3 days lead-time for big orders of the larger counts. Idaho quality is still good but internal black-spot has surfaced in a few lots. The Washington market is steady and strong on all counts with Idaho being so limited on the larger counts. They continue to peak on 70/ 80's and still have excellent quality but are limited on the smaller sizes. Washington expects to have storage product available through June. Colorado remains steady and strong on the larger counts and prices will continue to follow the Idaho market upward. Colorado should have storage product into July, possibly longer. New crop russets are expected to start the second week of June in California, however the number of planted acres has decreased and been delayed due to cooler weather. There are a few reds and gold remaining in Idaho but the supplies are light. California, Arizona and Florida are also packing reds and gold and have good supplies.

SQUASH

Mexico production is sporadic and they are finishing up for the season within the next 7 days. Baja and Fresno still have lighter production from the cooler weather. Squash has become readily available in several of the southeastern states, however rain throughout the region has caused prices to increase going into next week.

TOMATOES

Prices continue to remain at lower levels with more product coming online in other growing areas. No major changes going into next week.