

MARKET report

Lettuce (Leaf/Iceberg/Romaine): ROMAINE – Supplies are fair. Quality and condition has been affected by the extreme weather with peel and blister evident. The market is stronger for product that is trimmed and free of freeze damage. Size and weights are lighter than normal based on trimming and cleaning of the product. Gradually the field freeze damage is decreasing and product is looking better. **ICEBERG-** Supplies are lighter than over the past few weeks. Quality and condition is very good. Size and weights will be steady in the low to mid 40's. Some jumbos are available. Epidermal peel and blister is being removed from the heads.

GREENLEAF- Supplies are fair. Quality and condition has been affected by the extreme weather and peel and blister evident. The market is stronger for product that is trimmed and free of freeze damage. Green leaf will be especially tight over the next week.

Onions: Idaho, Oregon, & Washington all have good supplies of yellows in storage. Both yellows and reds are steady to lower in all areas with discounts for volume. Demand remains light. Mexican sweets and sack mediums & jumbo yellows are slightly higher this week due to lighter supplies from rain in Mexico. Yellow quality has been excellent in the northwest and fair to good in Texas.

Potatoes: The Idaho carton market is mostly steady on both varieties. Norkotahs remain more limited than Burbanks. The norkotah size range is still 70's through 100's while Burbanks are still peaking on 80's and then 70's. Washington potatoes are steady on all sizes.

Spring Mix: Supplies are adequate and quality is improving.

Yellow Squash/Zucchini: Markets are slightly unsettled. Supplies are more than adequate.

Tomatoes (5x6/Grapes/Romas): Reports have the Mexican government somewhat limiting tomato crossings at Nogales, AZ and McAllen, TX, with the result being a slightly firmer market overall. Prices are still at or near the minimum floor prices on most sizes, but the 6x6 and 6x7 sizes and roma tomatoes definitely show signs of life & upward movement. Quality has been excellent overall and look for Mexican tomato products' distribution to encompass more of the U.S. market in the coming weeks.

Cantaloupes: Cantaloupes are more available with limited supplies.

Grapes: Chilean fruit is coming in to both coasts with good quality. The growing areas are moving from the Northern to the Southern region where the fruit is better quality and size. The market continues to be very soft on red grapes as there is plenty of fruit with little demand. Green grapes are tightening up as less volume is coming in and quality is fair to good.

Honeydew: Demand exceeds supplies. Offshore fruit is more limited on dew than Cantaloupe. Mexican fruit is still extremely limited also. Very good quality and mostly 6's available for what little fruit is out there. Quality is good.

Lemons: Desert crop is about done; their season is projected to end mid February. Central Valley crop is harvesting and the Ventura crop harvest is slow as growers are letting fruit gain size.

Oranges: The Navels are in full production and supplies are good. Quality looks very nice and fruit is now full natural color. Pack outs are running heavy to fancy grades.

Strawberries: Demand is still very good. Quality is being reported as good. Fruit size is running large counting 10-16 currently with some light white shoulder showing up in the packs. Demand should start to back off as we get into the weekend. Florida strawberries growers are to get hit with some rain again this weekend which will hurt the quality and harvest numbers..