

the Source +



Market Alerts

TRANSITION The movement of Western growing regions from the Yuma, Arizona area back north to Central California. Many of the products you use year-round are affected during this time, which normally lasts from March to early May. Affected crops may include all lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, berries and more. "Transition", as this movement is called, often comes with more frequent quality and availability issues. Be sure to read The Source Plus each week for up-to-date recommendations.

LETTUCE Quality continues to be fair on Iceberg and Romaine products. Consider using Green Leaf Lettuce as a substitute.

GRAPES The Chilean grape season is approaching its end, and quality is beginning to decline on both Red and Green Grapes, with Reds being the better value.

STRAWBERRIES California's growing conditions have improved from last week, but quality is still fair at best. Florida's harvest is finished and Mexico's is winding down. Quality issues include softness and short shelf life, and pricing may be higher in certain markets.

ORANGES The severe shortage of **Oranges** has reached the point where certain sizes are largely unavailable. Orders for **113 CT, 138 CT and 163 CT** fruit are very likely to be shorted, or substituted with an **88 CT or larger size**. We recommend **88 CT, 72 CT or larger Oranges** be used through the end of the **Navel** season in early spring.

A Peek at Peak Seasons

Squash: Yellow and Zucchini Squash are in very good supply, with great pricing and quality reported.

Eggplant: The early spring harvest in the East is yielding great quality product.

Ramps: This wild onion with a pungent flavor grows during a very short season in early to mid-spring. Ask your distributor for availability.

Fiddlehead Ferns: Another spring crop with a short season, this tightly wound vegetable has a taste and texture similar to asparagus. Ask your distributor for availability.

Asparagus: Quality and pricing are very good on all sizes of Asparagus. Locally grown product may be available in select markets.

Spring Pears: D'Anjou, Red and Bosc Pears are in good supply out of Washington, with very good quality reported.

Bell Peppers: Harvests of Red, Green and Colored Bell Peppers are abundant in all growing regions. Quality and pricing are very good.

Weather Update

California: Heavy rain is expected in the Central regions at the beginning of the week.

Mexico: Warm, dry conditions expected throughout most of the growing regions.

Florida: Cooler temperatures and seasonal afternoon thunderstorms expected across the state.



Commodities at a Glance

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|  APPLES | Quality and pricing are good |  CELERY | Quality and pricing are good |  LETTUCE LEAF | Quality is fair; pricing is higher on Romaine. Green Leaf is the best value. |
|  ASPARAGUS | Quality and pricing are good |  CITRUS (LEMONS) | Quality and pricing are good |  LETTUCE TENDER LEAF | Quality and pricing are good |
|  AVOCADO | Quality is good, pricing is fair |  CITRUS (LIMES) | Quality is good, pricing is higher |  MELON (CANTALOUPE) | Quality and pricing are good |
|  BELL PEPPERS | Quality and pricing are good |  CITRUS (ORANGES) | Quality is good, sizes are running large, pricing is higher |  MELON (HONEYDEW) | Quality and pricing are good |
|  BERRIES (BLACKBERRIES) | Quality and pricing are good |  CUCUMBERS | Quality and pricing are good |  MELON (WATERMELON) | Quality and pricing are good |
|  BERRIES (BLUEBERRIES) | Quality is good, pricing may be higher |  EGGPLANT | Quality and pricing are good |  ONIONS | Quality and pricing are good |
|  BERRIES (RASPBERRIES) | Quality is fair, pricing is good |  GARLIC | Quality is fair, pricing is higher |  PEARS | Quality and pricing are good |
|  BERRIES (STRAWBERRIES) | Quality is fair, pricing may be higher |  GRAPES (GREEN) | Quality is fair, pricing is higher |  PINEAPPLES | Quality and pricing are good |
|  BROCCOLI | Quality and pricing are good |  GRAPES (RED) | Quality is fair, pricing is good |  POTATOES | Quality and pricing are good |
|  BRUSSELS SPROUTS | Quality is good, pricing is higher |  GREEN ONIONS | Quality and pricing are good |  POTATOES (COLORED) | Quality and pricing are good |
|  CARROTS | Quality is good, pricing is slightly higher |  KALE | Quality and pricing are good |  SQUASH | Quality and pricing are good |
|  CAULIFLOWER | Quality and pricing are good |  LETTUCE ICEBERG | Quality is fair, pricing is good |  TOMATOES | Quality and pricing are good |

