

CONFIDENCE
IN EVERY CASE.



Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF MAY 19, 2019

Ask a Markon Chef

Markon has gathered a group of our member- and grower-affiliated chefs to answer your questions about produce.

Ask us your most challenging cooking inquiries online >

FEATURED QUESTION

Q: Cauliflower “rice” or crumbles have moved from a trendy item to a staple in many kitchens. What’s your favorite way to use them?

A: I use them as an alternative to bread crumb toppers, raw as a base for a bowl salad, or cooked slightly as a base for plant-based sushi. They make a great crust for proteins, can be used in a “risotto,” or even used in relishes like piccalilli or chow chow.

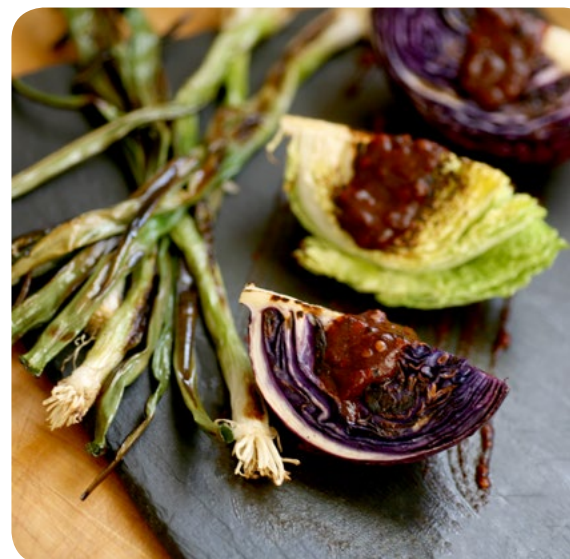
- Mix Ready-Set-Serve® (RSS) Cauli Creations with quinoa, Brussels sprouts quarters, pepitas, and creamy tahini dressing.
- Toss with egg, cheese, and breadcrumbs, then deep fry in tater-tot forms.
- Excellent in veggie burgers and omelets—chefs are even using cauliflower as a rice substitute in sushi!

*Chef Michael Vilorio,
Markon Member Chef*



Menu Feature

Every chef needs a few solid recipes in his or her repertoire. That’s why Markon has put together a catalog of fresh produce-based recipes that cover it all: day- and menu-parts, the range of seasons, a variety of cuisines, and a diverse list of ingredients.



Charred Cabbage Wedges with Korean BBQ Sauce

Crunchy, with a smoky summer flavor, these cabbage wedges get a spicy kick from gochujang and barbecue sauce.

Get the full recipe >

Highlights

- Markon First Crop® (MFC) Premium Romaine Lettuce weights are higher on average than the rest of the industry (36 to 39 pounds compared with 34 to 37 pounds).
- Santa Maria and Salinas/Watsonville, California strawberry supplies are ample. Prices remain steady at lower levels.
- Tuesday, May 7 marked the end of the United States’ involvement in the Tomato Suspension Agreement with Mexico. All Mexican tomatoes imported into the U.S. now include a 17.56% tariff; moving forward, importers will include this new tariff in their open-market pricing.

Tips for Serving Strawberries

- Mix chopped MFC Strawberries, cubed Hass avocados, minced MFC Red Onions, minced jalapeno chile peppers, RSS Washed & Trimmed Cilantro, and RSS Lime Juice; serve with grilled snapper.
- Layer sliced MFC Strawberries and lime curd (made with RSS Lime Juice) between tuiles; top with whipped cream, lime zest, and whole strawberry.
- Puree MFC Strawberries, buttermilk, and sugar; pour through a sieve; sprinkle with gelatin, pour into molds, and chill; serve panna cotta with sliced MFC Strawberries.



Browse additional usage tips >

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These hand-held sweet baby broccoli crostini are easy to make—ideal starters at catered events or cocktail hours.

Produce Highlights

Brussels Sprouts

- Volume will remain extremely low through June.
- Expect high prices.

Limes

- The market for large-size fruit will remain elevated over the next three to five weeks.
- Prices for small fruit will continue to ease.

Tomatoes

- Expect active tomato prices for the rest of May while crops transition and the new Mexican import policies are fully understood.
- Grape tomato and round tomato markets are higher, but Roma prices are steady.

Apples



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
WA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Expect rising markets for Golden Delicious and Granny Smith supplies through the end of summer; 125- and 138-count storage fruit is extremely tight. Washington MFC Fuji, Gala, Granny Smith, and Red Delicious Apples are available. Packer label Autumn Glory, Envy, Honeycrisp, Jazz, Pacific Rose, and Pink Lady stocks are on the market. Quality is excellent: fruit is crisp and juicy. Sugar levels range from 14 to 18 Brix.

Asparagus



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
MEX	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
PERU	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Weak prices persist; volume is high. Quality ranges from good to very good: tips are tight, stalks are firm, and flavor is pleasantly grassy. MFC Asparagus is available.

Avocados



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is forecast at high levels through June, when summer stocks typically increase. Quality is very good: high oil content is creating creamy texture and nutty flavor. RSS Avocado Chunks, Halves, Pico de Gallo Guacamole, and Pure Pulp are available.

Bells: Green



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
FL	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
GA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
MEX/AZ	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are climbing; supplies are tightening on both coasts due to harvesting transitions. Quality is good: bruising and mechanical damage are slight issues. MFC and Markon Essentials® (ESS) Green Bell Peppers are available.

Bells: Red and Yellow



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
FL	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are steady at high levels, but will inch down as new crop California volume climbs. The Mexican season is almost over. Domestic quality is best: decay is a minor problem in some lots. MFC and ESS Red Bell Peppers are available.

Blackberries



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
MEX	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is elevated. The Mexican season is ending; the California season has been delayed by several weeks. Quality is very good: berries are deeply colored, juicy, and sweet. Sugar levels range from 12 to 13 Brix.

Blueberries



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
FL	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
GA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are low; supplies are abundant. Fruit is shipping out of California, Central Florida, and Georgia. Quality is very good: fruit is plump and juicy. Sugar levels range from 12 to 16 Brix.

Broccoli



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
MEX/TX	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market will continue to fluctuate for several weeks. Last winter's rains caused gaps in planting schedules, but stocks are starting to increase. Quality is very good: yellow discoloration is minimal. MFC Broccoli Crowns are available.



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Cantaloupe



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
MEX/AZ	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are starting to inch down; new crop melons are entering the market. Domestic and Mexican harvesting has begun. Quality is good. Domestic MFC Cantaloupes are available.

Cauliflower



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market will continue to fluctuate for several weeks. Quality is very good: slight discoloration, ricey texture, and uneven growth are minor issues. ESS Cauliflower is available.

Celery



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices will remain high through this month; stocks are tight. Both quality and volume will climb when harvesting transitions to the Salinas Valley in early June. MFC Celery is available.

Cucumbers



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
FL	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Weak prices persist; supplies are plentiful. Quality is very good: skin is smooth, flesh is firm, and flavor is refreshing. MFC Cucumbers are available.

Grapes



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CHILE	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is rising. Although the Chilean season is set to end in early June, new crop Mexican fruit will hit the market in late May. No supply gaps are expected. New crop MFC Lunch Bunch Grapes will begin shipping in June.

Green Leaf/Variety Lettuce



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is low. Quality is very good: some heads are exhibiting anthracnose, internal burn, and mildew, but crews are removing affected leaves in the field. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is available.

Honeydew



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
MEX/AZ	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are weak. New crop domestic and Mexican supplies are on the market. Quality is very good. Domestic MFC Honeydew Melons will start shipping later this week.

Iceberg Lettuce



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is near the bottom; Salinas Valley stocks are abundant. Quality is average: mildew is a problem, but harvesting crews are removing damaged leaves in the field. MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is available.

Lemons



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are inching up. California's winter rains increased fruit size; small sizes (165-count and smaller fruit) will be tight through June. Quality is very good: fruit is juicy with tart flavor. MFC and ESS Lemons are available.

Limes



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
MEX/TX	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market for large-size fruit will remain elevated over the next three to five weeks. Prices for small fruit will continue to ease. Quality is good: scarring and stylar end rot are occasional problems. MFC and ESS Limes are available.

Onions



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
MEX/TX	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
TX	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are unchanged. The Northwest storage crop has ended. Fresh-run MFC Onions are shipping from California and Texas. The New Mexico season will start next week; volume will start off low, but increase as the harvest progresses. Quality is very good: fresh-run onions have feathery skins and light color when compared to Northwest storage onions.

Oranges



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
FL	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is starting to climb. California growers have transitioned to the late-season Navel crop; stocks will be available through early June. Some suppliers have begun shipping new crop Valencias. MFC and ESS Navel Oranges are on the market.

Pears



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
WA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are steady; stocks are adequate. MFC D'Anjou Pears are available, as well as packer label Bosc stocks; 120-count and smaller sizes are extremely limited. Sugar levels range from 12 to 14 Brix. California Bartletts will enter the market in June.

Pineapple



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CR	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
MEX/TX	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is unchanged; volume is sufficient. Quality is very good: fruit is juicy with tangy sweet flavor. Sugar levels range from 13 to 16 Brix.



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Potatoes



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
ID	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
OR	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
WA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
WI	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is steady; storage supplies are adequate. MFC Idaho Burbank Potatoes are available. White Russet potatoes are also on the market. Quality is good: skin is smooth and texture is firm.

Raspberries



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
MEX	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are high. The Mexican season is ending and the California season is getting a late start. Quality is very good: berries are plump and juicy with sweet flavor. Sugar levels range from 13 to 14 Brix.

Romaine



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is low; Salinas Valley stocks are ample. Quality is very good: anthracnose and mildew are minor issues, but harvesting crews are removing damaged leaves in the field. MFC Premium Romaine is available.

Salads & Blends



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are average; Salinas Valley iceberg and romaine stocks are abundant. Quality is good: Markon inspectors are closely monitoring finished cartons to achieve the best packs.

Spring Mix



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is level; stocks are sufficient. Quality is good: discoloration and mildew are occasional problems. RSS Conventional and Organic Spring Mixes are available.

Squash



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
FL	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
GA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
MEX/AZ	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices have eased; stocks are increasing. The new crop California season has started. Quality is improving: scarring and softness are minor issues. MFC Squash is available.

Strawberries



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market remains steady at lower levels. Santa Maria and Salinas/Watsonville supplies are ample. Berry size is dominated by medium to large fruit. Quality is very good: scarring is an occasional problem that harvesting crews are culling in the field. MFC Strawberries are available.

Tomatoes



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
FL	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Expect active tomato prices for the rest of May while crops transition and the new Mexican import policies are fully understood. Grape tomato and round tomato markets are higher, but Roma prices are steady. Quality is very good: fruit is plump, texture is firm, and skin is smooth.

Watermelon



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
MEX/AZ	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
OFFSHORE	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is inching down; domestic and Mexican stocks are plentiful. The offshore season is ending. Quality ranges from good to very good: fruit is juicy and bright red. Sugar levels are increasing.



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Table-ready fruits & vegetables.
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Markon Essentials (ESS).
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