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IN EVERY CASE.



Highlights

- Humid conditions, followed by rain, have caused **varying levels of internal burn** in some green leaf and romaine supplies, affecting both commodity and value-added items.
- The celery market is elevated, but will ease when harvesting moves to the Salinas Valley over the next few weeks.
- Expect high avocado prices through June, when summer volume typically increases.

Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF MAY 26, 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: On-trend dishes like avocado toast, acai bowls, and poke have proved to have staying power. What do you see as the next Millennial or Gen Z must-have?

A: Plant-based cuisine continues to stand out. Re-interpreting vegetables in regional and classical dishes has become very popular to the point where vegetable substitutes are often now included in tasting menus.

- Eggplant-based baba ghanoush is a delicious follow up to hummus platters; add grilled Halloumi cheese as a meat substitute.
- Ramen and rice bowls are ideal entrees for global menus; garnish with on-trend items like kimchi, spicy gochujang, and soft-poached eggs.
- Fill tacos with hearty vegetables such as charred cauliflower or butternut squash; top with classic mole sauce and pickled red onions.

*Chef Michael Vioria,
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.



Tropical Toasts

Hand-held and packed with healthy fruits, these Ricotta-spread bites work well in many sections of the menu: breakfast, bar snack, appetizer...even dessert!

Get the full recipe >

Tips for Serving Grapes

- Toss Ready-Set-Serve® (RSS) Romaine Ribbons with Markon First Crop® (MFC) Red Seedless Grapes, RSS Sliced Celery, walnuts, and salty ham cubes; drizzle with chive vinaigrette.
- Garnish cold soups such as green gazpacho, honeydew, and cucumber with sliced MFC Green Seedless Grapes and slivered almonds.
- Push MFC Green Seedless Grapes into focaccia dough; sprinkle with sugar and bake.



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Fresh Crop Report

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Creatively stacked in on-trend Mason jars or high-ball glasses, this colorful vegetable salad is packed with bright colors and balanced flavors.

Produce Highlights

Broccoli

- Expect fluctuating prices for a week or two more.
- Last winter's rain storms caused gaps in planting schedules, but supplies are beginning to return to normal levels.

Onions

- Growers have switched from storage onions to fresh-run supplies from California, New Mexico, and Texas.
- Fresh-run onions have feathery skins and light color compared to Northwest storage onions.

Strawberries

- Showers in Santa Maria and Salinas/Watsonville, California delayed some harvests and reduced stocks.
- Prices are inching up.

Apples



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

Prices for Golden Delicious and Granny Smith stocks will inch up through late summer; 125- and 138-count storage supplies are limited. 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 also 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is low; supplies are plentiful. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Expect high prices through June, when summer volume typically increases. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
MEX/AZ	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is inching up. Stocks are diminishing on both coasts; growers are moving to new growing regions. Quality ranges from good to very good: bruising and mechanical damage are occasional problems. MFC and Markon Essentials® (ESS) Green Bell Peppers are available.

Bells: Red and Yellow



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

The market is steady; new crop California supplies are slowly increasing. The Mexican season is nearly finished. Quality is good: decay is a slight issue in some lots. MFC and ESS Red Bell Peppers are available.

Blackberries



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

Prices are high. The Mexican season will end in mid-June, while California production is delayed due to rain. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is weak; stocks are ample. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Expect fluctuating prices for a week or two more. Last winter's rain storms caused gaps in planting schedules, but supplies are beginning to return to normal levels. Quality is very good: yellow discoloration is minimal. MFC Broccoli Crowns are available.



Fresh Crop Report

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Cantaloupe



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

The market has stabilized; new crop melons are being harvested in California. Quality is good. Domestic MFC Cantaloupes are available.

Cauliflower



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

Expect fluctuating prices for a few more weeks. Quality is very good: slight discoloration, ricey texture, and uneven growth are occasional problems. ESS Cauliflower is available.

Celery



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

The market is elevated, but will ease when harvesting moves to the Salinas Valley over the next few weeks. Quality will improve. MFC Celery is available.

Cucumbers



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

The market is near the bottom; stocks are abundant. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are inching up. The Chilean season will end in early June, but new crop Mexican supplies will enter the market this week. New crop MFC Lunch Bunch Grapes will begin shipping in June.

Green Leaf/Variety Lettuce



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

Prices are steady. Quality is good: humid conditions, followed by rain, have caused varying levels of internal burn. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is available.

Honeydew



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

The market remains low. New crop domestic and Mexican stocks are available. Quality is very good. Domestic MFC Honeydew Melons are on the market.

Iceberg Lettuce



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

Prices are weak; Salinas Valley supplies are plentiful. Quality is good: rain has caused some mildew, but harvesting crews are removing damaged leaves. MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is available.

Lemons



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

The market is a bit higher than last week. The crop is dominated by large fruit; small sizes (165-count and smaller fruit) will be limited through mid-June. Quality is very good: fruit is juicy and flavor is tart. MFC and ESS Lemons are available.

Limes



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

Prices for large-size supplies will remain high for the next few weeks; the market for small fruit is lower. Quality is very good: scarring and styler end rot are minor issues. MFC and ESS Limes are available.

Onions



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

The market is weak. The New Mexico season has begun; stocks are tight, but will increase as harvesting progresses. Quality is very good: fresh-run onions have feathery skins and light color compared to Northwest storage onions. Fresh-run MFC Onions are shipping from California, New Mexico, and Texas.

Oranges



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

Prices are up. California growers are shipping late-season Navels; supplies will be depleted by early June. New crop Valencia stocks are starting to enter the market. MFC and ESS Navel and Valencia Oranges are available.

Pears



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

The market is unchanged; stocks are sufficient. MFC D'Anjou Pears are available, as well as packer label Bosc stocks; 120-count and smaller sizes are very tight. Sugar levels range from 12 to 14 Brix. California Bartletts will become available in mid-June.

Pineapple



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

Prices are stable; supplies are adequate. Quality is very good: fruit is juicy with tangy sweet flavor. Sugar levels range from 13 to 16 Brix.



Fresh Crop Report

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Potatoes



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

Prices are level; storage stocks are sufficient. MFC Idaho Burbank Potatoes are available. White Russet potatoes are also on the market. Quality is average: skin is smooth and texture is firm.

Raspberries



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

The market is elevated. The Mexican season is nearly over; California production is increasing. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are weak; Salinas Valley supplies are average. Quality is good: humid conditions, followed by rain, have caused varying levels of internal burn. MFC Premium Romaine is available.

Salads & Blends



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

The market is steady; Salinas Valley stocks are plentiful. Quality is average: Markon inspectors are closely monitoring finished cartons for chunks and cores to achieve the best packs.

Spring Mix



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

Prices are unchanged; volume is average. Quality is good: discoloration and mildew are minor issues. RSS Conventional and Organic Spring Mixes are available.

Squash



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

The market is low; supplies are ample. The new crop California and Georgia seasons have begun. East Coast quality is best: California rain has caused some scarring and softness. MFC Squash is available.

Strawberries



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

Showers in Santa Maria and Salinas/Watsonville delayed some harvests and reduced stocks. Prices are inching up. Quality is average: bleeding and softness are rain-related problems that harvesting crews are doing their best to cull in the field. MFC Strawberries are available.

Tomatoes



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

The market has eased, stocks are plentiful. Several growing regions are in transition, while at the same time, suppliers are putting the new Mexican import policies into place. Quality is very good: fruit is plump, texture is firm, and skin is smooth.

Watermelon



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

Prices are easing; domestic and Mexican supplies are abundant. The offshore season is over. Quality is very good: fruit is juicy and bright red. Sugar levels are increasing.



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