CONFIDENCE
IN EVERY CASE.

MARKON®

Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF JUNE 9, 2019

Highlights

- Mildew, internal burn, and fringe burn are industry-wide problems in lettuces due to recent inclement weather.
- President Trump announced the U.S. would be imposing tariffs on all Mexican imports effective June 10 if illegal immigration from Mexico did not subside, starting at 5% on June 10, to 10% on July 1, and an additional 5% on the first day of each subsequent month for three months until reaching 25 percent.
- The bulk of Markon First Crop® (MFC) Strawberry orders will be shipped out of the Salinas/Watsonville region now that supplies have increased and quality is improving.

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: Fresh berries add color, texture, and sweetness—how do you use them?

A: I macerate fresh berries with a fortified wine such as port or madeira, palm sugar, vanilla, and Ready-Set-Serve® (RSS) Lemon Juice to bring out their flavor and force the juice from the berries into the maceration. Allow to set for a few hours, strain, take ¾ of liquid into a hot saucepan with sherry vinegar and cook to a gastrique state. With the remaining macerated juice, add heavy cream and egg yolks then temper over a water bath to make a sabayon. Build parfaits with layers of berries and sabayon with drizzled gastrique throughout the glass. Chill before service. Garnish with chopped MFC Strawberries, blackberries, blueberries, and raspberries.

Chef Chris Cukjati,
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.

Coconut Shrimp with Lime-Mango Rice

Crispy, tropical-flavored shrimp top this colorful rice bowl stuffed with avocado, mango, cilantro, and toasted coconut.

Get the full recipe >

Tips for Serving Watermelon

- Combine watermelon chunks, chopped MFC Tomatoes, and chunks of MFC Cucumbers with vinaigrette made with MFC Baby Dill; serve with flank steak.
- Serve thick melon slices with salty salumi, Marcona almonds, and Cabrales cheese.
- Mince watermelon, MFC Cantaloupe, pineapple, MFC Red Bell Peppers, Serrano chile peppers, and RSS Washed & Trimmed Cilantro; serve relish over grilled fish and chicken.
- Add chopped watermelon, MFC Cucumbers, and MFC Mint to cooked couscous; serve with grilled meat kebabs.

Browse additional usage tips >

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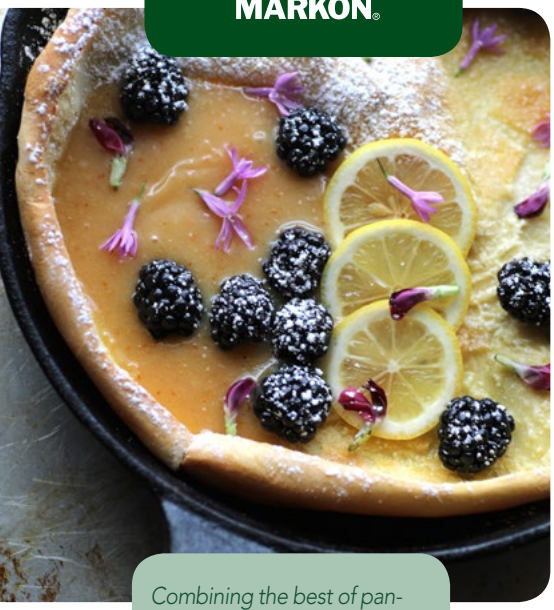
WEEK OF JUNE 9, 2019



Combining the best of pancakes and popovers, these Dutch puffs can be served for breakfast, brunch, or dessert. Serve plain or piled high with curd and fresh fruit!

Produce Highlights

Apples

- MFC Fuji, Gala, Granny Smith, and Red Delicious Apples are available.
- Braeburn and Honeycrisp volume has been depleted.

Melons

- Domestic MFC Cantaloupe and Honeydew Melons are now in season.
- New crop supplies are exhibiting excellent quality with firm texture and long shelf-life.

Onions

- New crop, fresh-run MFC Onions are being shipped out of California and New Mexico.
- Fresh-run onions have feathery skins and light color.

Apples

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
WA	^^^	★★★★★	$$$

Demand is strong for Golden Delicious and Granny Smith apples; 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, Jazz, Pacific Rose, and Pink Lady stocks are also on the market. Braeburn and Honeycrisp volume has been depleted. 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 ample in both regions. Mexican quality is best: tips are tight, stalks are firm, and flavor is pleasantly grassy. MFC Asparagus is available.

Avocados

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
MEX	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

Prices are elevated; volume is low. 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	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
GA	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$
MEX/AZ	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$

The market is near the bottom. Domestic stocks are plentiful on both coasts. The Mexican season is winding down; California will be the primary growing region for the summer. California quality is best: 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	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$
GA	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$
MEX	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$

The market is stable. Although the Mexican season is wrapping up, new crop California supplies are increasing. East Coast harvesting is in Georgia this month. Quality is good: decay is a minor problem. MFC and ESS Red Bell Peppers are available.

Blackberries

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
MEX	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

Prices are high. The Mexican season is nearly over. California production was delayed by rain, but is finally getting started. 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 available in 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	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
MEX/TX	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

Prices have eased due to increased supplies. Quality is very good despite several weeks of inclement weather: mildew and yellow discoloration are occasional problems being culled in the field. MFC Broccoli Crowns are available.

Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF JUNE 9, 2019

Cantaloupe

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
MEX/AZ	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$

The market is unchanged; domestic supplies are increasing. California quality is best. MFC Cantaloupe Melons are now in season.

Cauliflower

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
MEX	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

Prices have eased. Despite recent inclement weather, stocks have increased. Quality is very good: slight discoloration, ricey texture, and uneven growth are occasional problems being culled in the field. ESS Cauliflower is available.

Celery

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$

Expect elevated markets and tight supplies for several weeks. Recent rain has caused quality concerns. MFC Celery is available.

Cucumbers

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
GA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
MEX	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

The market has inched up a bit. Mexican growers are moving from the mainland to Baja. East Coast growers will move from Georgia to North Carolina soon. Quality is very good. MFC Cucumbers are available.

Grapes

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CHILE	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
MEX	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

The market is holding steady, although the Chilean season has ended. New crop Mexican supplies are already on the market. New crop MFC Lunch Bunch Grapes will start shipping soon.

Green Leaf/Variety Lettuce

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	★★☆☆☆	$$$

Prices are up; volume has fallen. Quality is fair: anthracnose, internal burn, and mildew are industry-wide problems. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is sporadic.

Honeydew

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
MEX/AZ	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$

Prices are weak. New crop domestic and Mexican stocks are available. California quality is very good. Domestic MFC Honeydew Melons are now in season.

Iceberg Lettuce

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	★★☆☆☆	$$$

Prices have jumped; volume has fallen. Quality is fair: mildew is an industry-wide problem in iceberg fields. MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is sporadic.

Lemons

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$

The market is a bit higher than last week. Large sizes dominate available supplies; fruit on trees soaked up much of the recent rain. Small sizes are extremely limited. Quality is average: fruit is juicy and flavor is tart. MFC and ESS Lemons are available.

Limes

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
MEX/TX	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

Prices have fallen; stocks are abundant with the exception of 110-count sizes, which are limited. Quality is very good: scarring and stylar end rot are minor issues. MFC and ESS Limes are on the market.

Onions

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
NM	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
TX	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

The market is steady at low levels. New crop, fresh-run MFC Onions are being shipped out of California and New Mexico. The South Texas season ends this week. Quality is very good: fresh-run onions have feathery skins and light color compared to Northwest storage onions.

Oranges

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	★★★★★	$$$
FL	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

Prices are high. The Navel season is ending. New crop Valencia stocks are tight, but on the market. MFC and ESS Valencia Oranges are available.

Pears

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
WA	^^^	★★★★★	$$$

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

Pineapple

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CR	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
MEX/TX	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

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

Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF JUNE 9, 2019

Potatoes

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
ID	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
OR	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
WA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
WI	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

Prices for 40- to 80-count Burbanks are up; the crop is dominated by small sizes. New crop Norkotahs will hit the market in mid-July. MFC Idaho Burbank Potatoes are available; size is dominated by 80- to 100-count stocks. White Russet potatoes are also on the market. Quality is very good: skin is smooth and texture is firm.

Raspberries

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
MEX	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

The market is starting to ease. The Mexican season is nearly over; California supplies are increasing now that weather has improved. 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 up; Salinas Valley stocks are limited. Quality is fair: fringe burn and internal burn are industry-wide problems. MFC Premium Romaine is sporadic.

Salads & Blends

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	★★☆☆☆	$$$

The market is steady; supplies are tightening. Quality is fair. 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; stocks are sufficient. Weather has improved, aiding quality. RSS Conventional and Organic Spring Mixes are on the market.

Squash

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
GA	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$
MEX/AZ	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$

The market is slightly higher than last week. Zucchini are more plentiful than yellow squash. The new crop California season is in full swing. The Mexican season is nearly over, while Georgia growers are starting to move production to North Carolina. Quality ranges from good to very good.

Strawberries

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

Prices are easing. Supplies remain available in Santa Maria, but the bulk of MFC orders will be shipped out of the Salinas/Watsonville region now that volume has increased and quality is improving. MFC Strawberries are available.

Tomatoes

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
FL	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
MEX	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
SC	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

The market is inching up; stocks are tightening. Mexican harvests are in transition. The California summer season is getting a slow start, while East Coast growers are beginning to move to the Carolinas. Quality is very good: fruit is plump, texture is firm, and skin is smooth.

Tree Fruit

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

California nectarines and peaches are now on the market. Plums will become available next week. Quality is very good: sugar levels range from 10 to 11, but will increase as the seasons progress.

Watermelon

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
FL	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
GA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
MEX/AZ	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
TX	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

The market is low. Volume is high in California, Florida, Georgia, and Texas; the Mexican season is winding down. Quality is very good: fruit is juicy and bright red. Sugar levels are rising.

Ready-Set-Serve (RSS). Table-ready fruits & vegetables. Backed by 5-Star.

Markon First Crop (MFC). Whole fresh fruits & vegetables. Backed by 5-Star.

Markon Essentials (ESS). No.2 grade value-focused brand. Quality, food safety, and consistency in every box. Backed by 5-Star.

5-Star Food Safety. Addressing quality and safety at five key points.