

CONFIDENCE
IN EVERY CASE.



Highlights

- The iceberg and romaine markets have jumped; heat-related quality problems have reduced volume.
- California Bartlett pears are on the market; Washington Bartletts will become available later this week. New crop Washington D'Anjou pear production will start in September.
- Green bell pepper supplies are ample; prices continue to ease. Red bell pepper markets are higher.

Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF AUGUST 25, 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: Breakfast has progressed beyond our borders to include dishes from across the globe. What are your favorite recipes and where are they from?

A: One of my current favorites is shakshuka, which originated in the Middle East. Traditionally, it's a dish of tomatoes, onions, and spices with a poached egg. We make several cross-cultural versions including Hispanic and Norwegian interpretations. For the Hispanic flavors we cook onions and Poblano peppers, then add heavy cream and lime juice. Eggs are added and slowly cooked until the whites are set. Add crumbled Cotija cheese and shredded pepper jack for a hearty breakfast. I vary the basic recipe to make a Nordic version by simmering dill and lemon juice in cream until slightly thickened, then top with eggs that are cooked until set. I add thinly sliced smoked salmon, more fresh dill, salmon roe, and a dollop of sour cream.

*Chef Lou Rice,
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.



Sweet Potato Steaks with Black Kale and Tomato Confit

A dream crostini appetizer for gluten-free diners, these sweet potato rounds are topped with a variety of flavors and textures, making it a scrumptious bite.

Get the full recipe >

Tips for Serving Green Beans

- Toss Ready-Set-Serve® (RSS) Trimmed Green Beans with olive oil, salt, and pepper; roast until tender; serve aside steaks with grated Parmesan cheese.
- Lightly fry green beans that have been dipped in buttermilk and panko bread crumbs; serve with spicy wasabi dipping sauce.
- Wrap a small bunch of RSS Trimmed Green Beans with fillet of sole; bake until fish is cooked; drizzle all with tarragon cream sauce.



Browse additional usage tips >



This family-style tomato salad gets balance from crunchy cucumbers, zesty garlic, and classic Caesar dressing flavors.

Produce Highlights

Cilantro

- Supplies are tightening; quality is declining.
- Expect an active market for several weeks.

Cucumbers

- The market is elevated; Mexican supplies are extremely limited.
- East Coast stocks are also tightening due to shifting demand.

Idaho Potatoes

- The Idaho Burbank storage crop season has ended.
- Demand will shift to fresh-run new crop Norkotahs from Colorado, Idaho, Texas, and Washington until new crop Idaho supplies increase.

Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF AUGUST 25, 2019

Apples



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
WA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

New crop Washington Markon First Crop® (MFC) Gala Apples are now being shipped. Expect tight Golden Delicious stocks until new crop fruit becomes available. Storage supply Washington MFC Fuji, Granny Smith, and Red Delicious Apples are on the market. Quality is very good: sugar levels range from 14 to 18 Brix.

Asparagus



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

Elevated prices persist. Mexican volume is low, driving demand to Peru. Inclement weather has reduced Peruvian supplies. Quality is fair. MFC Asparagus is available.

Avocados



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
PERU	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

The market is up; production is ending in California and Peru, while Mexican fruit is tight. Quality is very good. RSS Avocado Chunks, Halves, Pico de Gallo Guacamole, and Pure Pulp are available.

Bells: Green



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
CAN	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
MEX/TX	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
MI	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
NC	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Supplies are ample; prices are low. Quality is very good: skins are smooth, scars are minimal, and flavor is zesty. MFC and Markon Essentials® (ESS) Green Bell Peppers are available.

Bells: Red and Yellow



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
GA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Red bell pepper markets are higher. Volume is low in both regions. Overall quality is good: skins are smooth and flavor is subtly sweet, yet zesty. MFC and ESS Red Bell Peppers are available.

Blackberries



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
PNW	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are steady; Pacific Northwest fruit is becoming more plentiful each week. 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	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
MEX/TX	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
PNW	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

The market is unchanged. California berries are abundant; stocks in the Pacific Northwest are increasing. Quality is very good: berries are plump, deep blue/black, and juicy. Sugar levels range from 12 to 16 Brix.

Broccoli



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

The market is weak; volume is high in both growing regions. Quality is very good: yellow discoloration and mildew are minor issues in some lots, but harvesting crews are culling for best quality. MFC Broccoli Crowns are available.



Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF AUGUST 25, 2019

Cantaloupe



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

Prices are stable to slightly lower than last week. Stocks are adequate; large sizes are most abundant. Quality is fair: shelf-life is typically shorter than normal at this time of year. MFC Cantaloupes are available.



Cauliflower

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

The market is weak; volume is high. Quality is average: discoloration and ricey texture are slight problems. ESS Cauliflower is available.



Celery

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

Prices are low; stocks are ample in both production regions. Quality is very good: stalks are straight and firm with zesty flavor. MFC Celery is available.



Cucumbers

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
MEX/CA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
MI	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
NY	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is elevated; Mexican supplies are extremely limited. East Coast stocks are also tightening due to shifting demand. MFC Cucumbers are available.



Grapes

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

Prices are unchanged; California supplies are sufficient. New crop MFC Lunch Bunch Grapes are on the market from California. ESS Red Seedless Grapes are also available.



Green Leaf/Variety Lettuce



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

The market is weak; stocks are ample. Head size is large, although aphid/insect pressure is an occasional problem. Expect sporadic heat-related quality issues. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is available.



Honeydew

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

Prices are steady to slightly lower than last week; California supplies are plentiful. Quality is average: shelf-life is a bit longer than cantaloupes at this time. Fruit is sweet: sugar levels range from 13 to 14 Brix. MFC Honeydew Melons are available.



Iceberg Lettuce



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

The market has jumped; heat-related quality problems have reduced volume. Quality is fair. MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is sporadic.

Lemons



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

Prices will remain high through the summer months; large sizes are ample. Quality is good: shelf-life is shorter at this time of the year due to warm coastal growing conditions. MFC and ESS Lemons are available.

Limes



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

The market is steady. Although stocks are adequate, large sizes (200- to 250-count) are extremely limited. Quality is average. MFC and ESS Limes are available.

Onions



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

MFC Onions are now available in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington; growers are still shipping stocks from New Mexico as well. Quality is very good: early, fresh-run onions out of the Northwest will have a rounder, more globe-like shape than stocks shipped during the spring/summer months.



Oranges

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

The market for 113-count and smaller fruit is poised to rise; 88-count and larger sizes dominate the crop. California quality is very good: sugar levels range from 12 to 14 Brix. MFC and ESS Valencia Oranges are available.



Pears

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

California Bartletts are on the market; Washington Bartletts will become available later this week. New crop Washington D'Anjou production will start in September. Quality is excellent: sugar levels range from 12 to 14 Brix.



Pineapple

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

The market is high. Overall supplies are limited; 7- and 8-count sizes dominate availability. Quality is very good: fruit is juicy with tangy, yet sweet flavor. Sugar levels are high, ranging from 13 to 16 Brix.





Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF AUGUST 25, 2019

Potatoes



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

The market will remain elevated through early September. The Idaho Burbank storage crop season has ended. Demand will shift to fresh-run new crop Norkotahs from Colorado, Idaho, Texas, and Washington until new crop Idaho supplies increase. Northwest quality is very good: storage crop defects are minimal.

Raspberries



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

Prices are unchanged. California stocks are ample. Quality is very good: berries are plump and juicy with mildly sweet flavor. Sugar levels range from 13 to 14 Brix.

Romaine



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

The market has escalated; supplies are tight due to heat-related issues, including fringe burn, mildew, and shortened shelf-life. MFC Premium Romaine is sporadic.

Salads & Blends



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

Prices are up; iceberg and romaine volume is low. Markon inspectors are closely monitoring finished cartons for defects, as well as chunks and cores, to achieve the best packs.

Spring Mix



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

The market is weak; stocks are sufficient. Extreme heat can cause quality problems and reduce shelf-life at this time of the year. RSS Conventional and Organic Spring Mixes are sporadic.

Squash



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

Prices are stable to slightly lower than last week; supplies are starting to increase. Quality is good, but shelf-life is below-normal in some districts due to the hot summer weather. Order for quick turns.

Strawberries



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

The market is rising; high temperatures are causing some heat-related quality problems like bleeding, bruising, and diminished berry size in the Salinas/Watsonville and Santa Maria regions. MFC Strawberries are available.

Tomatoes



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

Prices are slightly higher than last week; volume is low in all growing regions. Quality ranges from good to very good, but overall, fruit is plump, texture is firm, and skin is smooth.

Tree Fruit



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

The market is low; summer stocks are ample. Quality is very good. Sugar levels for peaches range from 10 to 11 Brix, for nectarines they vary from 10 to 12, and for plums sugars are 12 to 14 Brix.

Watermelon



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

Strong demand is keeping prices high; supplies are sufficient. Quality is average: melons are firm, juicy, and sweet. Sugar levels range from 11 to 12 Brix.



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Table-ready fruits & vegetables.
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