

CONFIDENCE
IN EVERY CASE.



Highlights

- Blueberry and blackberry prices are steady. California fruit is ample; supplies are increasing in the Pacific Northwest.
- Temperature swings experienced over the last few weeks in California's Salinas Valley may cause **yield and quality/shelf-life concerns** in upcoming lettuce and leafy greens fields.
- The asparagus market is high; volume is low in Mexico and Peru. Erratic weather is keeping volume and quality below normal.

Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 1, 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: Vegan BBQ is a growing segment. Aside from classic sides like collard greens and cole slaw, what do you suggest serving for your plant-based customers?

A: Jackfruit and cauliflower are two ingredients that works well as meat replacements in tacos and barbecue applications. Mushrooms are another ingredient with enough toothsome texture to mimic meats like pulled pork or tender chicken.

- Pickled foods like kale, chard, or radishes add a punch of flavor—use to boost contrast in jackfruit tacos or sandwiches.
- Cauliflower florets can be battered and fried and served with spicy Buffalo sauce for a lower-calorie, meat-free alternative to wings.

*Chef Marcus Calderon,
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.



White Pizza with Lemony Arugula

These individual pizzas are topped with lemony arugula to balance the rich, creamy cheese and earthy mushroom flavors.

Get the full recipe >

Tips for Serving Spring Mix

- Mix Ready-Set-Serve® (RSS) Spring Mix with apricots and pistachios; drizzle with creme fraiche dressing made with Markon First Crop® (MFC) Mint and Tarragon.
- Toss RSS Spring Mix with thick slices of sauteed MFC Portabella Mushrooms, Parmesan croutons, and creamy garlic dressing.
- Mix RSS Spring Mix with pepper-seared ahi tuna, roasted MFC Red Bell Peppers, sliced MFC Cucumbers, and snipped MFC Chives; top with creamy wasabi dressing.



Browse additional usage tips >



This shareable side dish is roasted on high heat to blister the carrots' skins while keeping the inside sweet and tender. Drizzle with miso and serve over black rice.

Produce Highlights

Limes

- Prices are rising.
- Mexican shipments into the U.S. are below normal levels.

Potatoes

- New crop Burbank harvesting will begin in late September.
- Fresh-run packer label supplies will be on the market while harvesting takes place.

Red Bell Peppers

- Markets remain firm.
- The California Coastal regions are getting a slow start, but stocks should begin increasing next week.

Fresh Crop Report

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Apples



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

Despite the seasonal transitions, prices are stable. New crop Washington MFC Gala Apples are on the market. Golden Delicious supplies will remain limited until new crop fruit becomes available. Storage supply Washington MFC 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	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

The market is high; volume is low in both growing regions. Erratic weather is keeping quality below normal. MFC Asparagus is sporadic.

Avocados



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

Expect elevated markets for several more weeks; the California and Peruvian season are winding down, while Mexican Flora Loca stocks are merely average. 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	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

The market is weak; stocks are abundant. 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	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Prices remain firm; supplies are tight. The California Coastal regions are getting a slow start, but stocks should begin increasing next week. Quality is fair: skins are smooth and flavor is subtly sweet, yet zesty. MFC and ESS Red Bell Peppers are sporadic.

Blackberries



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

The market is level; Pacific Northwest supplies are becoming more abundant. 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	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are steady. California fruit is ample; supplies are increasing in the Pacific Northwest. 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	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Low prices persist; stocks are plentiful in both growing regions. Quality is very good: yellow discoloration and mildew are occasional problems, but harvesting crews are culling for best quality. MFC Broccoli Crowns are available.



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Cantaloupe



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

The market is weak. West Coast stocks are ample, especially large sizes. Quality is average: shelf-life is typically shorter than normal at this time of year. MFC Cantaloupes are available.

Cauliflower



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

Prices are low; supplies are abundant. Quality is good: discoloration and ricey texture are occasional issues. ESS Cauliflower is available.

Celery



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

The market is weak; volume is high. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are easing; stocks are increasing. Quality is good: softness is an occasional heat-related problem. MFC Cucumbers are not available.

Grapes



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

The market is level; California stocks are plentiful. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Low prices persist; volume is high. Expect sporadic heat-related quality problems. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is available.

Honeydew



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

The market is weak; California volume is up. Quality is good: shelf-life is a bit longer than cantaloupes at this time in the season. Melons are sweet: sugar levels range from 13 to 14 Brix. MFC Honeydew Melons are available.

Iceberg Lettuce



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

Prices are elevated; heat-related quality issues have tightened stocks. Quality is fair. MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is sporadic.

Lemons



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

Expect high markets through the summer; although supplies are limited, large sizes are the most plentiful. Quality is average: 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are escalating. Mexican shipments into the U.S. are below normal levels. The crop is dominated by 250-, 275-, and 300-count sizes. Quality is average. MFC and ESS Limes are sporadic.

Onions



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

The market is starting to ease; stocks are increasing. MFC Onions are available in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington; the New Mexico season has ended. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices for 113-count and smaller fruit are up; stocks are tight. Markets for 88-count and larger sizes are holding steady. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is level; stocks are sufficient. Bartlett pears are being shipped from both California and Washington. New crop Washington D'Anjou harvesting will begin in September. Quality is excellent: sugar levels range from 12 to 14 Brix.

Pineapple



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

Prices are high. Volume has fallen; 7- and 8-count sizes dominate available supplies. 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 SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

Potatoes



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

Prices are high. New crop Burbank harvesting will begin in late September. Fresh-run packer label supplies will be on the market while harvesting takes place. Minor skinning, excess moisture, and cooler mold may be observed in fresh-run potatoes; condensation develops on potatoes when they are transferred from warm fields to refrigerated trucks.

Raspberries



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

The market is level. California supplies are plentiful. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are high; stocks are limited due to heat-related quality problems, including fringe burn, mildew, and shortened shelf-life. MFC Premium Romaine is sporadic.

Salads & Blends



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

The market is inching up; iceberg and romaine supplies are tight due to high temperatures. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are low; supplies 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is weak; volume has increased. Quality is good, but shelf-life is below-normal in some districts due to the heat-related quality issues. Order for quick turns.

Strawberries



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

Prices are elevated; erratic hot weather has caused 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The Roma market is easing; round tomato prices are elevated. California supplies are below normal levels. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are steady; the season is past its peak. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market remains high; stocks are adequate, but demand is strong. Quality is good: fruit is firm, juicy, and sweet. Sugar levels range from 11 to 12 Brix.



Ready-Set-Serve (RSS).
Table-ready fruits & vegetables.
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