

CONFIDENCE
IN EVERY CASE.



Highlights

- Warm, humid conditions have caused accelerated maturity and quality issues in crops. Shelf-life performance in lettuce, tender leaf items, and strawberries will be challenged over the next 10 days.
- Lime prices are up. Isolated rains from Tropical Storm Fernand will provide some drought relief in the months to come. However, demand will continue to exceed supply on 110- through 200-count sizes through early October.
- Unseasonable cold weather and frost events during the growth cycle of this year's Idaho potato crop have slowed maturity.

Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15, 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: What is your favorite fall vegetable and how do you like to use it?

A: Butternut squash is my favorite fall vegetable. I like to simmer it in a pureed soup with sliced MFC Apples and smoked Cheddar cheese. Another great idea is to roast halved Butternuts with local honey drizzled on top....simplicity is delicious.

- Chunks of hard squashes like Butternut (and also Acorn, Delicata, Kabocha, Hubbard, Banana, and Golden Nugget) work well in hearty stews and chilis.
- Roast and use in vegetarian/vegan tacos, sandwiches, green salads, grain bowls, and burritos.
- Their creamy texture and inherent sweetness make excellent pie and tart ingredients.

*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.



Bibimbap

This Korean dish with a whimsical name is chock full of healthy, delicious ingredients—making it America's new favorite comfort meal.

Get the full recipe >

Tips for Serving Grapes

- Toss Markon First Crop® (MFC) Green and Red Seedless Grapes and Ready-Set-Serve® (RSS) Sliced Onions with olive oil; bake alongside chicken roasters; serve all with pan juices.
- Garnish cold soups such as green gazpacho, honeydew, and cucumber with sliced MFC Green Seedless Grapes and slivered almonds.
- Serve MFC Green Seedless Grapes, sliced MFC Apples, MFC Pears, figs, and nuts on specialty cheese platters.
- MFC Green and Red Seedless Grapes are ideal burger and sandwich sides.



Browse additional usage tips >



Tender, earthy beets absorb the umami notes of miso as well as bright lemongrass and healthy turmeric for a visually stunning, healthy starter or side.

Produce Highlights

Blackberries

- The market is low; Pacific Northwest supplies dominate availability.
- Quality is very good: berries are deeply colored, juicy, and sweet.

Pears

- The market is stable; stocks are sufficient. Bartlett pears are being shipped from California and Washington.
- Quality is excellent: sugar levels range from 12 to 14 Brix.

Celery

- The market is weak; yields are plentiful.
- Quality is very good: stalks are straight and firm with zesty flavor.

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Apples



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

Prices are steady. New crop Washington MFC Gala and Golden Delicious Apples are on the market. Storage supply Washington MFC Granny Smith and Red Delicious Apples are available. Quality is very good: fruit is crisp, crunchy, and juicy. Sugar levels range from 14 to 18 Brix.

Asparagus



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

The market remains high; stocks are tight in Mexico and Peru. Erratic weather has diminished quality throughout the industry. MFC Asparagus is sporadic.

Avocados



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

Prices have stabilized. Quality is very good: texture is creamy and flavor is buttery with hints of grass. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Weak markets persist. 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/NC	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are lower; stocks have increased on both coasts. Quality is good: heat is affecting some lots, but in general, 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 low; Pacific Northwest supplies dominate availability. 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 have eased. West Coast stocks are abundant. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are elevated; supplies are limited in both growing districts. Quality is very good: yellow discoloration, pin rot, and hollow core are occasional problems, but harvesting crews are culling for best quality. MFC Broccoli Crowns are sporadic.



Fresh Crop Report

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Cantaloupe



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

The market is slightly higher; the domestic season is past its peak. Quality is average: shelf-life is generally shorter than normal at this time of year. MFC Cantaloupes are available.

Cauliflower



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

Prices are steady at higher levels; volume is limited. Quality is good: discoloration and ricey texture are slight issues. ESS Cauliflower is available.

Celery



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

The market is weak; yields are plentiful. Quality is very good: stalks are straight and firm with zesty flavor. MFC Celery is available.

Cucumbers



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

Prices are slightly higher; stocks have tightened. Quality is good: softness is an occasional problem. MFC Cucumbers are not available.

Grapes



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

The market is stable; California supplies are ample. MFC Lunch Bunch Grapes and ESS Red Seedless Grapes are available.

Green Leaf/Variety Lettuce



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

Prices are low; Salinas Valley stocks are plentiful. Heat-related quality issues continue to reduce head size, but harvesting crews are removing damaged leaves when possible. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is available.

Honeydew



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

The market is steady to slightly lower. Large sizes are more plentiful than small. Quality is average: shelf-life is below normal at this time of year. Sugar levels range from 13 to 14 Brix. MFC Honeydew Melons are available.

Iceberg Lettuce



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

Prices are lower; supplies are ample, although heat-related quality issues continue to affect head size. Quality is fair. MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is sporadic.

Lemons



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

The summer market is high. Quality is good: shelf-life is shorter at this time of the year due to hot coastal growing conditions. MFC and ESS Lemons are available.

Limes



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

Prices are elevated. Large sizes (110- through 150-count fruit) are extremely limited; the crop is dominated by small fruit (230- through 250-count). Quality is average. MFC and ESS Limes are available.

Onions



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

The market has eased; Northwestern stocks are ample. MFC Onions are available in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Quality is very good: early, fresh-run onions out of the Northwest will have a rounder, more globe-like shape than supplies shipped during the spring/summer months. Once stocks begin shipping from storage, skins will have a more cured appearance with lower water content.

Oranges



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

Prices for 113-count and smaller fruit are higher than markets for other sizes; volume is diminishing. 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 stable; stocks are sufficient. Bartlett pears are being shipped from California and Washington. New crop Washington D'Anjou supplies are also on the market. Quality is excellent: sugar levels range from 12 to 14 Brix.

Pineapple



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

Prices are up. Supplies remain tight; 7- and 8-count sizes dominate 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

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Potatoes



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

Expect elevated prices until new crop Burbank harvesting begins in late September. Fresh-run packer label supplies will be on the market while production takes place. Minor skinning, excess moisture, and cooler mold are common issues 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 stable; domestic stocks 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Markets have eased; stocks remain limited due to heat-related quality problems such as fringe burn, mildew, and shortened shelf-life. MFC Premium Romaine is sporadic.

Salads & Blends



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

The market is up; iceberg and romaine volume is low 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 level; supplies are adequate. Hot weather 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
NC	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is steady; supplies are ample. Quality is good, but shelf-life may be below-normal in some regions due to the heat-related issues. Order for quick turns.

Strawberries



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

Prices remain elevated; erratic summer weather has caused some quality problems like bleeding, bruising, and diminished berry size in the Salinas/Watsonville and Santa Maria regions. MFC Strawberries are sporadic.

Tomatoes



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

The market is fairly steady; industry supplies are adequate, although Mexican vine-ripe stocks have tightened due to rain. 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 beginning to inch up; the domestic 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 is steady; stocks are adequate. 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.
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.



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Addressing quality and safety at five key points.