

CONFIDENCE
IN EVERY CASE.



Highlights

- Prices for lettuce and leafy greens are rising. Expect limited supplies and elevated markets over the next several weeks.
- The Salinas Valley, Santa Maria, and Oxnard, California growing regions are experiencing persistently hot, humid days and abnormally warm nights; row crops like broccoli, iceberg, leafy greens, and strawberries will be impacted.
- Watch the latest Live From the Fields about quality problems in broccoli crops.



Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22, 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: Apples are a sign of the seasonal shift. What is your favorite savory preparation?

A: I really enjoy cooking with apples. They add a natural sweetness and a certain tartness depending on the variety. They pair well with potatoes and give stuffings a festive feel. I like to dice apples and onions and toss with sweet potatoes or Yukon Golds. Mix with salt, pepper, herbs, and olive oil, then roast until the potatoes are tender yet crispy. Great with chicken, turkey, or pork. I also love to put apples in salads or slaws. Mix with arugula, shredded cabbage, and celery leaves. Toss in a citrus vinaigrette—this salad cuts through the richness of heavy dishes.

- Core Markon First Crop® (MFC) Granny Smith Apples; fill with mascarpone cheese, currants, and MFC Thyme; bake.
- Top potato soup with sauteed MFC Braeburn Apples, Ready-Set-Serve® (RSS) Sliced Onions, and MFC Mushrooms.

*Chef Pat Mitchell,
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.



Creamy Dijon Chicken with Sweet Baby Broccoli

Tender chicken simmered in a creamy-mustard sauce gets texture and flavor balance from sweet baby broccoli.

Get the full recipe >

Tips for Serving Potatoes

- Toss thinly sliced MFC Idaho Potatoes with salt and chopped RSS Peeled Garlic; bake until crisp; serve chips with curry-lime yogurt dip.
- Boil MFC Idaho Potatoes and parsnips; mash with olive oil, cream, and finely minced sage; serve with roast beef.
- Saute RSS Diced Onions, RSS Diced Celery, and MFC Chervil; stir in cubes of MFC Idaho Potatoes, lobster meat, and heavy cream; simmer until potatoes are tender and chowder has thickened.



Browse additional usage tips >

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Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2019



Light and silky, these tangy panna cotta are as delicious as they are visually stunning.

Produce Highlights

Broccoli

- The market continues to rise.
- Warmer, humid conditions in the Salinas and Santa Maria growing regions have resulted in quality issues that are reducing yields.

Limes

- Prices are declining.
- Shipments from Mexico into the U.S. are increasing, although 110- to 150-count sizes are tight.

Melons

- Cantaloupe supplies have tightened, pushing markets higher.
- Honeydew volume will dip next week.

Apples



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

The market is stable. New crop Washington MFC Gala, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, and Golden Delicious Apples are available. New crop Washington Fuji stocks are limited. Quality is excellent: fruit is crisp, crunchy, and juicy. Sugar levels range from 14 to 18 Brix.

Asparagus



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

Prices have inched down slightly; although cold weather in Peru is lowering volume, Mexican supplies are increasing. Mexican growers will transition from Central Mexico to the Baja region by the end of the month. MFC Asparagus is sporadic.

Avocados



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

The market is easing; stocks are ample, especially 48-count fruit. Prices will start climbing in a few weeks. 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	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
MEX/TX	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
MI	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
NC	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are low; West Coast volume is high. Quality is best in California and Mexico; recent storms have diminished shelf-life on the East Coast. MFC and Markon Essentials® (ESS) Green Bell Peppers are available.

Bells: Red and Yellow



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

The market is weak; supplies are abundant. California is the main growing region at this time. Quality is very good. MFC and ESS Red Bell Peppers are available.

Blackberries



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

Prices remain low; Pacific Northwest stocks are ample. 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 has eased. West Coast supplies are plentiful. 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 continues to rise. Warm, humid conditions in the Salinas and Santa Maria growing regions have resulted in quality issues that are reducing yields. Expect elevated prices over the next several weeks. Quality is fair: brown bead, pin rot, and hollow core are industry-wide problems. MFC Broccoli Crowns are sporadic.



Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

Cantaloupe



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

Supplies have tightened, pushing prices higher. The East Coast season has ended; demand has shifted west. Small sizes dominate available stocks. Quality is good. MFC Cantaloupes are sporadic.

Cauliflower



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

The market is holding steady despite heat-related quality problems that are reducing supplies. Quality is fair: brown bead, discoloration, and ricey texture are industry-wide problems. ESS Cauliflower is available.

Celery



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

The Salinas Valley is in full production. Prices are low and stocks are plentiful. Quality is very good: stalks are straight and firm with zesty flavor. MFC Celery is available.

Cucumbers



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

The market is level; volume is average. The Michigan season is ending; growers have moved to Georgia and North Carolina. Mexican growers will transition from Baja to the mainland for the winter. MFC Cucumbers are not available.

Grapes



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

Prices are unchanged; California stocks are abundant. MFC Lunch Bunch Grapes and ESS Red Seedless Grapes are available.

Green Leaf/Variety Lettuce



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

The market is starting to inch up; warm, humid conditions are affecting quality and reducing yields. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is available.

Honeydew



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

Prices are steady. California stocks are ample. Quality is good: 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is starting to rise; above-normal temperatures and humid weather are causing quality issues and reducing stocks. Quality is fair: puffiness and seeder are problems. MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is sporadic.

Lemons



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

Prices are up; volume is low, especially small sizes. Quality is average: 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is easing Shipments from Mexico into the U.S. are increasing, although 110- to 150-count sizes are tight. Quality is good: fruit is juicy with smooth skins and few scars. MFC and ESS Limes are available.

Onions



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

Prices are unchanged; Northwestern stocks are plentiful. MFC Onions are available in Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. Packer label supplies are being shipped from Colorado. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market for large sizes is stable; prices for 113-count and smaller fruit are higher. Quality is good: sugar levels range from 12 to 14 Brix. MFC and ESS Valencia Oranges are available.

Pears



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

Prices are steady; volume is average. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is high; stocks are tight. 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 22, 2019

Potatoes



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

Expect elevated prices until new crop Burbank harvesting begins in mid-October. MFC Idaho Norkotah Potatoes are on the market; 80- to 100-count sizes dominate the crop. Packer label supplies are being shipped from Colorado, Texas, and Washington.

Raspberries



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

Prices are unchanged; domestic supplies 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are inching up due to tighter stocks. Warm, humid conditions are causing fringe burn, mildew, and seeder; yields are lower. MFC Premium Romaine is sporadic.

Salads & Blends



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

Prices are high; iceberg and romaine supplies are limited due to hot, humid conditions. 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 increasing; hot weather is diminishing yields. Order for quick turns; expect reduced shelf-life at this time of the year. RSS Conventional and Organic Spring Mixes are sporadic.

Squash



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

Prices are stable. California production is winding down; growers will soon transition to Mexico. The Michigan season has ended; harvesting has moved to Georgia and North Carolina. Quality is good, but shelf-life may be below-normal in some regions due to heat- and rain-related issues.

Strawberries



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

The market is elevated; high summer temperatures have caused quality problems such as 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are steady to slightly lower than last week. Roma stocks are increasing; round tomato supplies are a bit tighter. Overall quality is very good: fruit is plump, texture is firm, and skin is smooth.

Tree Fruit



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

The market is beginning to climb. The domestic season is winding down; supplies will tighten through next month. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are stable to slightly higher than last week; supplies are sufficient. Quality is average: fruit is firm, juicy, and sweet. Sugar levels range from 11 to 12 Brix.



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Table-ready fruits & vegetables.
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