

CONFIDENCE
IN EVERY CASE.



Highlights

- Grape prices are expected to inch up as growers begin the transition from California's growing region to Chile and Peru. Markon First Crop® (MFC) Lunch Bunch Grapes and ESS Red Seedless Grapes will enter the market the week of January 13, 2020. Markon Essentials® (ESS) Green Seedless Grapes and Grape Escape stemless supplies will begin shipping the week of January 20, 2020.
- Mexican tomato volume is well-below normal levels. Florida yields are down, resulting in fewer domestic stocks on the market. Prices have escalated.
- Expect the broccoli and cauliflower markets to remain elevated through January.

Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF DECEMBER 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: Mild poultry is often the protein of choice for Christmas meals. How can you add flavor, texture, and color to these meats?

A: Seasonal meals of poultry are often served with stuffing. This classic side dish can be creative if made outside the bird (which ensures that vegetarians can share and lowers food safety risks) with plenty of fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs. Explore fantastic flavor combinations by using a variety of bread types (croissants, brioche, cornbread, ancient grains, etc.) and produce such as kale, apples, asparagus, garlic, ginger, sweet onions, apricots, sage, avocados, tarragon, lemons, spinach, mushrooms, onions, and rosemary.

Chef David Evans, 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.



Scallops with Tomatoes and Basil

This vibrant appetizer feels decadent, but scores healthy marks with earthy tomatoes, fresh basil, and pungent garlic.

Get the full recipe >

Tips for Serving Potatoes

- Toss thinly sliced MFC Idaho Potatoes with salt and chopped Ready-Set-Serve® (RSS) Peeled Garlic; bake until crisp and 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.
- Sauté 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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Based on the traditional beef recipe, this Wellington version combines the holiday flavors of turkey, mushroom, and cranberry.

Produce Highlights

Asparagus

- Harvesting transitions in the Mexican growing regions as well as increased holiday demand are limiting supplies.
- The market is climbing.

Celery

- Prices will remain elevated for the next several weeks.
- California rain has reduced yields, but Florida stocks are starting to increase.

Limes

- The market is rising.
- Mexican supplies (into South Texas) are below-normal levels.

Apples



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

Prices are level. Washington MFC Braeburn, Fuji, Gala, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, and Red Delicious Apples are available. This year's crop is expected to be the largest in recorded history. Specialty varieties like Autumn Glory, Envy, Honeycrisp, Jazz, and Sweetie are also on the market. The Cosmic Crisp variety will debut in January 2020. Quality is excellent: fruit is crisp, crunchy, and juicy. Sugar levels range from 14 to 18 Brix.

Asparagus



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

The market is climbing. Harvesting transitions in Mexico as well as increased holiday demand are limiting supplies. Quality is very good: stalks are straight and firm, while flavor is slightly bitter, yet grassy. MFC Asparagus is available.

Avocados



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

Prices are unchanged; stocks are ample, especially 60-count and smaller fruit. Quality is very good: fruit is firm, yet creamy in texture with nutty flavor. RSS Avocado Chunks, Halves, Pico de Gallo Guacamole, and Pure Pulp are available.

Bells: Green



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

The market is inching up. Rainy, cold East Coast weather is shifting demand to Mexico. Quality ranges from good to very good: walls are thick, creating crunchy texture. MFC and ESS Green Bell Peppers are available.

Bells: Red and Yellow



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

Prices remain high; stocks are extremely limited. California production is winding down, while rain has delayed the start of the Mexican season. Quality will improve once new crop Mexican supplies hit the market in approximately one to two weeks. MFC and ESS Red Bell Peppers are not available.

Blackberries



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

The market is stable. California production has ended; growers are harvesting in Mexico. New crop quality is very good: flavor is mildly floral and sweet. Sugar levels range from 12 to 13 Brix.

Blueberries



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

Prices are steady. The California season has ended, but volume is high in Mexico. Quality is very good: berries are plump and flavorful. Sugar levels range from 12 to 16 Brix.

Broccoli



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

Expect the market to be elevated through January. Although recent warm weather has increased head size, past rain also caused decay, pin rot, and systemic mildew. Quality is fair: growers are culling damaged heads in the field. MFC Broccoli Crowns are sporadic.



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Cantaloupe



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

The market is level; supplies are sufficient. MFC Cantaloupe Melons are not available during the import season.

Cauliflower



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

Prices are climbing; yields have fallen. Quality is fair: decay, small size, and creamy color are issues crews are culling in the fields. ESS Cauliflower is available.

Celery



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

The market will remain elevated for the next several weeks. California rain has reduced yields, but Florida stocks are starting to increase. Quality will improve once new crop supplies enter the market. MFC Celery is sporadic.

Cucumbers



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
FL	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
MEX/AZ	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices remain high; inclement weather has reduced overall volume. Quality is average: soft tips and yellowing are occasional issues. MFC Cucumbers are sporadic.

Grapes



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

Prices are expected to inch up as growers begin the transition from California to Chile and Peru. MFC Lunch Bunch Grapes and ESS Red Seedless Grapes will enter the market the week of January 13, 2020. ESS Green Seedless Grapes and Grape Escape stemless supplies will begin shipping the week of January 20, 2020.

Green Leaf/Variety Lettuce



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

Prices are low; supplies are abundant. Quality is average: cold weather may cause epidermal peeling moving forward. Harvesting crews are trimming leaves to reduce defects. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is available.

Honeydew



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

Extremely tight stocks have pushed up markets. Quality is good: sugar levels range from 11 to 12 Brix. MFC Honeydews are not available during the import season.

Iceberg Lettuce



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

Prices are low; stocks are abundant. Quality is good: cold weather may cause epidermal peeling moving forward. Crews are removing damaged leaves in the fields, decreasing weights in some instances. MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is available.

Lemons



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

The market is weak; volume is high in all California growing regions. Quality is very good: the crop's size profile is running large due to rain earlier this month. MFC and ESS Lemons are available.

Limes



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

Prices are rising. Mexican supplies (into South Texas) are below normal levels. Quality is good: stylar and scarring are occasional issues. MFC and ESS Limes are available.

Onions



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

The market is unchanged; storage stocks are plentiful. MFC Onions are available in Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. Packer label supplies are being shipped from Colorado. Overall quality is excellent. Sunions, a tearless variety, are available.

Oranges



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

Prices are stable. Stocks are ample; the California Navel season is in full swing. Quality is very good: sugar levels are averaging 11 Brix. MFC and ESS Navel Oranges are available.

Pears



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

The market is unchanged. MFC Washington Bartlett and D'Anjou Pears are available; supplies are dominated by 110- through 120-count fruit. Quality is excellent: supplies have firm texture, smooth skins, and sweet flavor. Sugar levels range from 12 to 14 Brix. The Bartlett season will run through February 2020.

Pineapple



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

Prices remain low; volume is high. Quality is very good: fruit is juicy and sweet, yet tangy. Sugar levels range from 13 to 16 Brix.



Fresh Crop Report

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Potatoes



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

Expect higher-than-normal prices through the 2020 season due to cold temperatures this past October. Idaho's freeze damaged much of the crop. Keep in mind that both Norkotahs and Burbanks will need to be ordered to prevent shortages. MFC Idaho Burbank and Norkotah Potatoes are available; 40- to 50-count Burbanks are limited.

Raspberries



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

The market is elevated. The Mexican season is nearly over; Santa Maria growers will ship through January. This week's warm weather will aid growth. Quality is improving. Sugar levels range from 13 to 14 Brix.

Romaine



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

Prices are near the bottom; volume is high in Yuma. Quality is good: crews are trimming any instances of mildew and wind damage. Cold weather may cause epidermal peeling moving forward. MFC Premium Romaine Lettuce is available.

Salads & Blends



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

The market is steady; supplies have increased. Markon inspectors are closely monitoring finished cartons for chunks and cores to achieve the best packs.

Spring Mix



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

The market is level; stocks are sufficient. Quality is good. RSS Conventional and Organic Spring Mixes are available.

Squash



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

Prices have eased on both coasts; supplies are ample. Quality is good: scarring and mechanical damage are problems in some zucchini lots. MFC Yellow Squash and Zucchini are available.

Strawberries



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

The market is starting to inch down; California fields are recovering from weeks of rain and low temperatures. Unfortunately, this break will be short-lived, as more storms are forecast for next week; prices will rise again. New crop harvesting is ramping up in Florida and Mexico, but stocks are not abundant enough to meet demand yet. MFC Strawberries are limited.

Tomatoes



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

Prices have escalated; supplies of all varieties are extremely scarce. The market will remain elevated until new crop Mexican stocks are available in January. Quality is average: rain-related issues and shortened shelf-life remain concerns.

Watermelon



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

The market is unchanged. Mexican volume is average. Offshore supplies are increasing on the East Coast and will be shipped to Texas and the West Coast soon. Quality is good: fruit is firm with bright color. Sugar levels range from 11 to 12 Brix.



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