

CONFIDENCE
IN EVERY CASE.



Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF JANUARY 12, 2020

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 RSS salad blend? What recipes do you serve using this item?

A: I love the versatility of Ready-Set-Serve® (RSS) Urban Blend. It contains baby red chard, wild arugula, and baby kale. This mixture can work as a flavorful salad, as a sauteed side dish, or be used in smoothies and other breakfast items.

- RSS Urban Blend makes a hearty salad when served raw with toppings and dressings like avocados, sliced fruit, grated beets, garbanzo beans, and hard cheeses.
- Stir-fry this blend with onions, ginger, and garlic; serve aside seared fish or steak.
- Serve with chopped chicken, avocados, cherry tomatoes, bacon, and hard-boiled egg.

*Chef Patrick 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.



Pear-Cranberry Beignets

Light and airy, these New Orleans-style confections are stuffed with seasonal fruits like pears and cranberries, then sprinkled with powdered sugar.

Get the full recipe >

Highlights

- Expect rising onion prices until Mexican stocks enter the U.S. market in late January.
- Markon Essentials® (ESS) Red Seedless Grapes in 18-pound packs are expected to enter the market this week. Markon First Crop® (MFC) Lunch Bunch Grapes and Grape Escape stemless supplies will begin shipping the week of January 20.
- Sugar snap peas will remain limited over the next week or so. Low temperatures continue to cause quality issues and reduce yields in the Baja, Mexico growing region.

Tips for Serving Fennel

- Toss shaved MFC Fennel, radicchio, red quinoa, and MFC Mint; serve with blood orange vinaigrette.
- Shave raw MFC Fennel into coleslaw mixes and toss with a creamy dressing like buttermilk Ranch; serve with barbecued meats or fried chicken.
- Toss thinly chopped MFC Fennel with raw RSS Brussels Sprouts and a citrus-based vinaigrette for a crunchy, bold salad.
- Grill rounds of MFC Fennel and serve with a seared scallop or blackened shrimp on top for a one-bite appetizer.

Browse additional usage tips >





Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF JANUARY 12, 2020



In today's world of options, offering a plant-based burger can ensure vegetarian and vegan customers are welcome at your establishment.

Produce Highlights

Asparagus

- Prices are high.
- Stocks will be tight through the month.

Broccoli

- Elevated prices and limited supplies are forecast through the month.
- Erratic weather conditions have slowed growth and affected quality, reducing yields; pin rot, mildew, and decay may be present in finished broccoli packs.

Iceberg Lettuce

- Supplies remain limited.
- Expect active markets for the next several weeks.

Apples



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

The market is level. Washington MFC Braeburn, Fuji, Gala, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, and Red Delicious Apples are on the market. Specialty varieties like Autumn Glory, Envy, Honeycrisp, Jazz, and Sweetie are also available. The Cosmic Crisp variety has debuted. 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 are high; stocks will be tight through the month. Quality will improve when new crop supplies hit the market at the end of the month. MFC Asparagus is available.

Avocados



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

The market is steady. Supplies remain abundant; 60-count and smaller fruit dominate availability. 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
FL	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices have skyrocketed; stocks are extremely limited on both coasts. Quality is good. MFC and ESS Green Bell Peppers are available.

Bells: Red and Yellow



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

The market is average; supplies are adequate. Mexican harvesting continues to increase. Quality is good: peppers have smooth, vibrant skins, and subtly sweet flavor. MFC and ESS Red Bell Peppers are limited.

Blackberries



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

Prices are level. Mexican stocks are sufficient. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is stable; Mexican stocks (into Texas) are plentiful. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Elevated prices and limited supplies are forecast through the month. Erratic weather conditions have slowed growth and affected quality, reducing yields; pin rot, mildew, and decay may be present in finished broccoli packs. Quality is poor: growers are removing damaged heads at the field level. MFC Broccoli Crowns are sporadic.



Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF JANUARY 12, 2020

Cantaloupe



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

Prices are fairly steady; volume is sufficient from Costa Rica and Honduras. MFC Cantaloupe Melons are not available during the import season.

Cauliflower



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

The market remains high; yields are limited due to wet, cold weather in December. Quality is fair: discoloration is a problem. ESS Cauliflower is available.

Celery



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

Prices are high; supplies are tight. MFC Celery is sporadic.

Cucumbers



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

The market has risen; stocks are limited. Quality is good, but soft tips and yellowing are occasional issues. MFC Cucumbers are sporadic.

Grapes



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

Prices are inching up; growers are transitioning from California fruit to supplies from Chile and Peru. ESS Red Seedless Grapes are available, while MFC Lunch Bunch Grapes and Grape Escape stemless stocks will enter the market in two weeks. ESS Green Seedless Grapes will start shipping in early to mid-February.

Green Leaf/Variety Lettuce



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

The market is up; supplies are tightening. Quality is average: last month's rain events caused quality problems like epidermal blistering and peeling, large ribs, brittle texture, mildew, and mechanical damage. Harvesting crews are trimming leaves to reduce defects. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is available.

Honeydew



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

Prices are high; volume is low. 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	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Expect active markets for the next several weeks; supplies remain limited. Multiple weather events including heavy rains, strong winds, and below-normal temperatures continue to reduce yields. MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is sporadic.

Lemons



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

Prices are low; California stocks are ample. Quality is very good: size profile is dominated by large fruit. MFC and ESS Lemons are available.

Limes



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

The market is steady to slightly higher than last week. Mexican stocks are adequate. Quality is good: styler and scarring are occasional problems. MFC and ESS Limes are available.

Onions



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

Expect rising onion prices until Mexican stocks enter the U.S. market in late January. MFC Onions are available in Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. Packer label stocks are being shipped from Colorado. Quality is excellent. Sunions, a tearless variety, are also on the market.

Oranges



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

The market is unchanged. California Navel and offshore stocks are plentiful. Quality is very good: sugar levels average 11.5+ Brix. MFC and ESS Navel Oranges are available.

Pears



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

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

Pineapple



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

The market is climbing; stocks are tightening in Costa Rica and Mexico (into Texas). Quality is very good: fruit is juicy and sweet, yet tangy. Sugar levels range from 13 to 16 Brix.



Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF JANUARY 12, 2020

Potatoes



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

The market is above-normal levels; Idaho's Burbank crop was greatly affected by last October's freezing temperatures. Both Norkotahs and Burbanks will need to be ordered to prevent shortages this entire season. MFC Idaho Burbank and Norkotah Potatoes are available; 40- to 50-count Burbanks are limited.

Raspberries



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

Prices are steady. The Mexican season is wrapping up. California growers will harvest through late January. This week's sunny, dry weather should increase yields. Quality is very good: sugar levels range from 13 to 14 Brix.

Romaine



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

The market is a bit higher. Last week's freeze, as well as several weeks of rainy weather are causing quality issues like epidermal blistering and peeling, large ribs, brittle texture, mildew, and mechanical damage. Harvesting crews are trimming leaves to reduce defects. MFC Premium Romaine Lettuce is limited.

Salads & Blends



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

Iceberg and romaine value-added salads and blends are exhibiting sporadic pinkening and shelf-life challenges due to weeks of rain and low temperatures. Markon inspectors are closely monitoring finished cartons to achieve the best packs.

Spring Mix



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

Recent weeks of cold weather, ice, and rain have caused quality and shelf-life challenges in tender leaf items from the Arizona desert growing region. Harvesting and processing plant crews are doing what they can to identify and remove the defects, but most are very difficult or impossible to remove. RSS Conventional and Organic Spring Mixes are sporadic.

Squash



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

The market is up; stocks are tightening in both Florida and Mexico. Quality is average: scarring and mechanical damage are issues. MFC Yellow Squash and Zucchini are sporadic.

Strawberries



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

California prices are stabilizing; warmer, drier weather is aiding growth and increasing yields. Supplies are also increasing in Florida and Mexico. Quality is average: problems with bleeding, bruising, and softness are improving. MFC Strawberries are on the market.

Tomatoes



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

The market remains elevated. Although Roma supplies have increased a bit, round stocks are extremely tight. Quality is good, but rain-related decay and shortened shelf-life remain concerns.

Watermelon



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

Prices are unchanged. Mexican and offshore supplies are sufficient. Quality is average: fruit is firm with bright color. Sugar levels range from 11 to 12 Brix.



READY-SET-SERVE
by MARKON

Ready-Set-Serve (RSS).
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