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Highlights

- An uptick in demand coupled with recent extreme heat has affected current and upcoming romaine crops and is causing a weak supply forecast.
- The Washington new crop Gala and Honeycrisp apple seasons have begun; new crop Fuji, Golden Delicious, and Red Delicious apples will be on the market later this week, followed by the Granny Smith variety in October.
- New crop potato prices have eased and will continue to inch down over the next few weeks.

Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13, 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: Apples and pears are a mainstay of fall menus. How do you serve these fruits in new and/or updated ways?

A: Bourbon apple butter is one of my favorite foods ever. It makes a great spread for a goat cheese grilled cheese on brioche or as a sauce for a shredded pork sandwich. Apple and butternut squash bruschetta is something that makes a great fall tapa. As for pears, I think pear chips are a very versatile way to utilize this fruit. They make great snacks for kids or can be used as a social-media worthy garnish on dishes and beverages. They can also be added to sautéed mushrooms and seasonal dishes such as gnocchi with brown butter and sage. This also reduces waste because preparation can be done ahead of time.

*Chef Kelli Welby,
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.



Fall Salad with Pomegranate and Pear

Fruits and nuts with leafy greens and edible petals—a crunchy, visually stunning salad great for the turn of the season.

Get the full recipe >

Tips for Serving Apples

- Chop Markon First Crop® Idaho Potatoes and MFC Gala Apples into cubes; mix with olive oil and salt; roast with MFC Rosemary.
- Accent brown rice or stuffing with fresh cranberries, sautéed MFC Crimini Mushrooms, and chopped MFC Granny Smith Apples.
- Sauté Ready-Set-Serve® (RSS) Red Onion Strips, sliced MFC Golden Delicious Apples, RSS Shredded Cabbage, and sliced MFC Fennel; serve with grilled bratwurst.
- Line baguette sandwiches with basil mayonnaise, slices of MFC Braeburn Apples, honey-roasted turkey, and RSS Wild Arugula.



Browse additional usage tips >



This classic North African egg breakfast also works well for lunch and dinner. Rich, creamy, and spicy, it brings the flavors of the Mediterranean together in one dish—easily transported for delivery as well!

Produce Highlights

Green Leaf & Romaine

- Both markets are climbing.
- Weather-related defects, such as internal burn, seeder, sun scalding, and dehydration are limiting harvestable acres.

Iceberg Lettuce

- Prices are rising.
- Volume is falling; Salinas Valley's recent heatwave increased iceberg growth, forcing early harvests.

Spring Mix

- Expect tight supplies through September.
- Spinach and arugula are especially susceptible to heat-related defects.

Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

Apples



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

The market will remain high until the transition between storage crop and new crop fruit is complete. The Washington new crop Gala and Honey-crisp seasons have begun; new crop Fuji, Golden Delicious, and Red Delicious supplies will be on the market later this week, followed by the Granny Smith variety in October. The Washington storage season is ending, but storage crop MFC Fuji, Gala, Granny Smith, and Red Delicious Apples remain available. Quality is excellent: sugar levels range from 14 to 18 Brix.

Asparagus



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

Prices are easing due to increased stocks. The Central Mexican season has peaked, but Baja supplies are ramping up. Peruvian supplies are available out of Florida. Quality is very good: spears are straight and tips are firm. MFC Asparagus is on the market.

Avocados



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

The market is level. Mexican volume is meeting demand; large sizes are the most plentiful. RSS Avocado Chunks, Halves, Pico de Gallo Guacamole, and Pure Pulp are available.

Bells: Green



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
CAN	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
MI	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
NC	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are firming up; colder East Coast weather is starting to tighten supplies. Demand is shifting to the west. Quality is very good: walls are thick, texture is crunchy, and flavor is fresh and zesty. MFC and Markon Essentials® (ESS) Green Bell Peppers are available.

Bells: Red and Yellow



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

The market has stabilized. New crop California production is starting to increase. Quality is very good: stocks possess firm walls with smooth, vibrant skins, and subtly sweet flavor. MFC and ESS Red Bell Peppers are available.

Blackberries



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

Prices are average; summer berry volume is sufficient. Quality is very good: berries are plump and sweet. Sugar levels range from 12 to 13 Brix.

Blueberries



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

The market is steady; supplies are adequate. Harvesting is underway in California, New Jersey, and the Pacific Northwest. Quality is very good: size is large and flavor is subtly floral, yet sweet. Sugar levels range from 12 to 16 Brix.

Broccoli



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

Prices are slightly higher than last week; stocks are tightening due to extreme heat. Quality is good: brown bead and pin rot are occasional problems. MFC Broccoli Crowns are available.



Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

Cantaloupe



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

Prices are low; stocks are ample. Large sizes dominate availability; 15- and 18-count melons are limited. Sugar levels range from 12 to 13 Brix. Domestic MFC Cantaloupes are available.

Cauliflower



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

The market is up. Extreme heat has caused a supply gap. Quality is good: Markon inspectors are choosing the best lots. ESS Cauliflower is available.

Celery



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

Prices are weak; stocks are plentiful. Minor yellowing is being observed in some lots after the recent heatwave, but overall quality is strong. MFC Celery is available.

Cucumbers



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

The market has stabilized. Mexican stocks are increasing; new crop Baja production is underway. East Coast supplies are tight. Quality is good: texture is firm, skins are smooth, and flavor is refreshing.

Grapes



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

Prices are unchanged; supplies are sufficient. MFC Red Seedless and MFC Lunch Bunch Grapes are currently in the Krissy and Scarlett Royal varieties. MFC Green Seedless Grapes are in the Ivory variety.

Green Leaf/Variety Lettuce



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
CAN	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
EAST COAST	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is climbing. Weather-related defects, such as internal burn, seeder, sun scalding, and dehydration are limiting harvestable acres. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is sporadic.

Honeydew



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

Prices are weak; supplies are ample. Quality is very good: sugar levels range from 11 to 13 Brix. MFC Honeydew Melons are available.

Iceberg Lettuce



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
CAN	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
EAST COAST	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is rising. Volume is falling; Salinas Valley's recent heatwave increased iceberg growth, forcing early harvests. Quality is average: puffiness and seeder are issues. MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is sporadic.

Lemons



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

Prices are level. Volume is adequate; choice grade fruit is the most plentiful. Quality is very good: fruit is juicy and tart. MFC and ESS Lemons are available.

Limes



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

The market is fairly steady. Rain has slowed production; size is dominated by small fruit. MFC and ESS Limes are being packed, but packer label will be shipped as needed.

Onions



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

Prices are stable. Jumbo onions are the most abundant, but size availability will increase as production progresses. New crop, fresh-run MFC Red and Yellow Onions are on the market in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Packer label supplies from Colorado are also available.

Oranges



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

The market is high. The California Valencia season is ending faster than originally expected. There will be a supply gap until the new crop Navel season begins in late October. Offshore and Texas-grown fruit will be shipped to ensure that orders are filled during this time. MFC and ESS Valencia Oranges are available.

Pears



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

Prices are unchanged. New crop California Bartletts will be on the market through October. Washington Bartletts are now available; 110- and 120-count sizes dominate the crop. D'Anjou harvesting will start soon.

Pineapple



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

The market is forecast to remain elevated through September due to heavy rain in growing regions. Quality is good: excess moisture is causing translucency in some lots. Sugar levels are, on average, above 13 Brix.



Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

Potatoes



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

The market has eased. New crop, field-run packer label Norkotah stocks are increasing. Stocks won't complete the sweat process until mid-October; until they do, supplies may release moisture as they cool, causing very light, white surface residue that can be easily brushed off. The white residue will dissipate as potatoes dry and does not pose any quality issues. New crop Burbank harvesting will start in late September/early October.

Raspberries



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

Prices are low; stocks are plentiful. Sugar levels range from 13 to 14 Brix.

Romaine



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
CAN	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
EAST COAST	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

An uptick in demand coupled with recent extreme heat has affected current and upcoming romaine crops and is causing a weak supply forecast. The market will remain elevated for several weeks. MFC Premium Romaine Lettuce is sporadic.

Salads & Blends



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

Volume is tightening due to recent heat and fires. Overall quality and shelf-life will be impacted, but the best lots with the most ideal maturity are being allocated for Markon orders.

Spring Mix



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

Expect tight supplies through September as more hot weather is forecast for the Salinas Valley and Santa Maria. Dehydration, early breakdown, shortened shelf-life, and yellowing leaves are quality-related concerns due to higher-than-normal temperatures. RSS Conventional and Organic Spring Mixes are sporadic.

Squash



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
GA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
MI	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
OH	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
NC	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
WI	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are stable; supplies are sufficient. Production is taking place in many regions on both coasts and in the Midwest. New crop stocks are ramping up in Georgia this week. Quality is very good: scarring and softness are occasional problems.

Strawberries



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

The market is a bit lower than last week, but extreme weather has kept volume low. Quality problems include bleeding, bronzing, bruising, and softness. MFC Strawberries are sporadic.

Tomatoes



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

Round and Roma tomato prices are steady, but grape tomato markets are a bit lower. Vine ripe supplies are limited, pushing up those prices.

Tree Fruit



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

The market is level. The nectarine and peach seasons will run through this month, while plum harvesting will continue through October. Quality is very good: nectarine and peach sugar levels range from 10 to 12 Brix, while plum levels vary from 12 to 14 Brix.

Watermelon



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
EAST COAST	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
MEX/AZ	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
WEST COAST	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are average; volume is adequate. Domestic harvesting is underway in many areas on both coasts. Quality is very good: color is deep red, texture is firm, and flavor is sweet.



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