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IN EVERY CASE.



Highlights

- Markon First Crop® (MFC) Premium Green Leaf weights are higher on average than the rest of the industry (22 to 25 pounds compared with 19 to 24 pounds).
- The Arizona/California desert growing region has experienced light ice in lettuce fields
- Two-tiered grape prices persist. Supplies were impacted by heavy rains in Chile. Offshore MFC Red Seedless and MFC Lunch Bunch Grapes will hit the market in a week or two.

Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF MARCH 7, 2021

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: Asparagus is a symbol of spring. What are some original ways you use it on your menus?

A: Although the light, grassy flavors of asparagus are delicious on their own, I like to add layers with roasted garlic, Parmesan cheese, chopped pine nuts, or crispy prosciutto. Another great trick is to wrap steamed spears in phyllo dough and bake for a hand-held dipper. Lastly, I like to char and chop, then add to leafy green salads dressed with a citrusy or mustard-based vinaigrette.

- Toss soba noodles with roasted MFC Asparagus and miso dressing; top with pan-seared scallops.
- Combine cooked linguine, grilled MFC Asparagus, MFC Shiitake Mushrooms, and MFC Chervil with lemon cream sauce.

*Chef Shane Henderson,
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.



Soba Noodle Salad with Peas and Bacon

Serve this salad as a shareable appetizer or main course. The tender buckwheat pasta is tossed with sugar snap and English peas, salty bacon, silken tofu, and the "it" condiment, XO sauce.

Get the full recipe >

Tips for Serving Potatoes

- Cook a hash of boiled MFC Potatoes, MFC Green Bell Peppers, Ready-Set-Serve® (RSS) Peeled Garlic, and chorizo; use as empanada filling.
- Toss thinly sliced MFC Potatoes with sea salt and chopped RSS Peeled Garlic; bake until crisp, then serve chips with curry-lime yogurt dip.
- Boil MFC Potatoes and parsnips; mash with olive oil, heavy cream, and finely minced MFC Sage.



Browse additional usage tips >



Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF MARCH 7, 2021



This twist on the traditional mayonnaise-based potato salad is packed with the umami flavors of black garlic—pairs well with smoked meats or grilled poultry.

Produce Highlights

Bell Peppers

- Green bell prices are low; supplies are plentiful.
- Red and yellow bells are also ample.

Cauliflower

- Prices are climbing.
- Recent freezing temperatures in Texas brought an early end to that season, shifting extra demand to the Arizona/California desert region.

Limes

- Prices remain active.
- Mexican supplies (crossing through South Texas) are still fairly tight, keeping availability limited.

Apples



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

The market is level; storage volume is high. Washington MFC Fuji, Gala, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, Honeycrisp, and Red Delicious varieties are on the market. Quality is excellent: sugar levels range from 12 to 14 Brix.

Asparagus



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

Prices are forecast to remain weak through March. The Caborca season will wrap up at the end of the month; harvesting will move to Central Mexico in early to mid-April. Peruvian stocks are tight but will increase in April. Quality is excellent: stalks are uniform and tips are firm. MFC Asparagus is available.

Avocados



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

The market is stable. Mexican supplies are plentiful, especially 48-, 60-, and 70-count sizes. Colombian and Chilean imports are sporadic due to occasional port delays. New crop production has begun in California; the crop is dominated by small fruit. RSS Avocado Chunks, Halves, Pico de Gallo Guacamole, and Pure Pulp are available.

Bells: Green



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

Prices are low; supplies are plentiful. Production is steady in Florida and at its peak in Sinaloa, Mexico. New crop California harvesting will start in early April. Quality is very good: skins are smooth, color is bright, and flavor is zesty. MFC and Markon Essentials® (ESS) Green Bell Peppers are available.

Bells: Red and Yellow



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

The market is weak; stocks are ample in all regions. California production will start in mid-April. Quality is very good: flavor is subtly sweet with hints of zest. MFC and ESS Red Bell Peppers are available.

Blackberries



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

Prices are elevated; supplies are tight but starting to rebound. Crops will peak in late March/early April. Quality is very good: sugar levels range from 12 to 13 Brix.

Blueberries



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

The market is up. Low temperatures have impeded growth in some areas of California and Mexico. South American supplies are limited; the Chilean and Peruvian seasons are beginning to wind down. Overall quality is very good: berries are plump and tangy-sweet. Sugar levels range from 12 to 16 Brix.

Broccoli



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

Prices are low. Volume is high out of the Arizona/California desert growing area. Early season harvesting is starting in Salinas, California. Quality is very good: sporadic bracketing is being found in some lots but harvesting crews are culling at the field level. MFC Broccoli is available.



Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF MARCH 7, 2021

Cantaloupe



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

Prices are level. Imported stocks are starting to increase. Sugar levels range from 11 to 12 Brix.

Cauliflower



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

The market is climbing. Freezing temperatures in Texas brought an early end to that season, shifting extra demand to the Arizona/California desert region. ESS Cauliflower is available.

Celery



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

Prices are low; West Coast stocks continue to increase. Quality is excellent: stalks are straight, firm, and deeply colored. MFC Celery is available.

Cucumbers



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

The market is easing; volume is rising in Honduras (into Florida) and Mexico. Quality is very good. MFC Cucumbers are available.

Grapes



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

Green grape prices will continue to climb until the Mexican harvest in May. Supplies are tight due to heavy rains that caused quality issues like decay and split skins. Offshore MFC Lunch Bunch Grapes are available.

Green Leaf/Variety Lettuce



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

The market is near the bottom; stocks are plentiful. Production will begin in the Huron, California region in mid- to late March. Quality is very good. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is available.

Honeydew



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

Prices have inched up slightly. Mexican growers are moving to new crop regions. Offshore volume is average. Quality is very good: sugar levels range from 11 to 13 Brix.

Iceberg Lettuce



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

The market is weak but may inch up as demand is increasing. Quality is very good; however, sporadic growth cracking, mildew damage, and uneven weights are issues. The season in Huron, California is getting started. MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is available.

Lemons



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

Prices are steady. Volume is average; large sizes are ample. MFC and ESS Lemons are available.

Limes



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

The market remains active. Mexican supplies (crossing through South Texas) are still fairly tight, keeping availability limited. More rain is forecast; expect more upward pressure on prices. MFC and ESS Limes are available.

Onions



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

Prices are stable. Mexican red, white, and yellow stocks remain limited (into South Texas). Texas-grown onions are scheduled to start shipping later this week. Northwest MFC Onions will be readily available through May. Packer label supplies are being shipped from Colorado. Quality is excellent: Mexican onions will have feathery skins and light color/exterior compared to Northwest storage stocks.

Oranges



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

The market is level; supplies are adequate. Quality is excellent: sugar levels range from 12 to 13 Brix. MFC and ESS Navel Oranges are available.

Pears



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

Prices are steady. D'Anjou pears will be available in Washington and Oregon through August. Size is dominated by 80- through 110-count fruit; small sizes (120- and 135-count pears) are limited. U.S. No. 1 grade stocks are ample; fancy grade pears are scarce. The Washington Bartlett season is ending.

Pineapple



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

The market is unchanged; stocks are sufficient. Quality is very good: fruit is juicy and tangy-sweet. Sugar levels average 15 Brix.



Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF MARCH 7, 2021

Potatoes



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

Prices are stable. MFC Norkotah Potatoes are the main variety being shipped. Small sizes are the most plentiful. Norkotah quality is excellent, while Burbank quality is good. Idaho White Russet potatoes are also on the market.

Raspberries



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

High markets persist; volume is starting to rebound. Central Mexico will help supplement as production returns to normal levels in mid-March. Sugar levels range from 12 to 13 Brix.

Romaine



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

Prices are low but may start climbing as demand rebounds; supplies are ample. Production will start in the Huron, California region in mid- to late March. Quality is very good. MFC Premium Romaine Lettuce is available.

Salads & Blends



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

The market is steady. Iceberg and romaine supplies are abundant. Overall quality is very good. Markon Inspectors are choosing the highest quality lots to achieve the best packs.

Spring Mix



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

Prices are level; volume is high in Yuma, Arizona. Quality is excellent in all varieties; yellowing is minimal. RSS Conventional and Organic Spring Mixes are on the market.

Squash



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

Markets are slightly higher than last week; Florida weather has cooled a bit, reducing yields. Mexican volume is high. Quality is very good: skins are smooth, color is deep, and flavor is pleasantly bitter. MFC Squash is available on both coasts.

Strawberries



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

Prices have eased; stocks are increasing with recent warm, dry weather. The Mexican season is ending; orders are shifting to Oxnard and Santa Maria, California. Markets may start inching up next week as more rain is forecast for the West Coast. Quality is very good: berries are firm and sweet. Cold-chain management remains a vital component in maximizing shelf-life.

Tomatoes



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

The round and Roma markets are stable at low levels; demand has weakened and supplies are sufficient. Grape and cherry tomato prices are steady; stocks are abundant. Quality is very good: fruit is plump and juicy. It's an excellent time to promote the tomato category.

Watermelon



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

The market is up; Mexican supplies are limited; harvesting is in transition to Northern growing regions. Expect climbing prices and fair quality for several weeks (until the new crop season ramps up). Sugar levels range from 11 to 12 Brix.



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