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IN EVERY CASE.

MARKON

Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF JUNE 23, 2019 | CANADIAN EDITION

Highlights

- Green leaf, iceberg, and romaine prices continue to rise. Expect tight stocks for several weeks due to quality problems and harvesting gaps.
- Brussels sprout volume has increased; expect lower prices over the next few weeks.
- Expect elevated bell pepper markets for the rest of June. Supplies are tightening as production transitions north.

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: Markon Essentials brand focuses on flavor, not appearance. What preparations do you target with this line of vegetables?

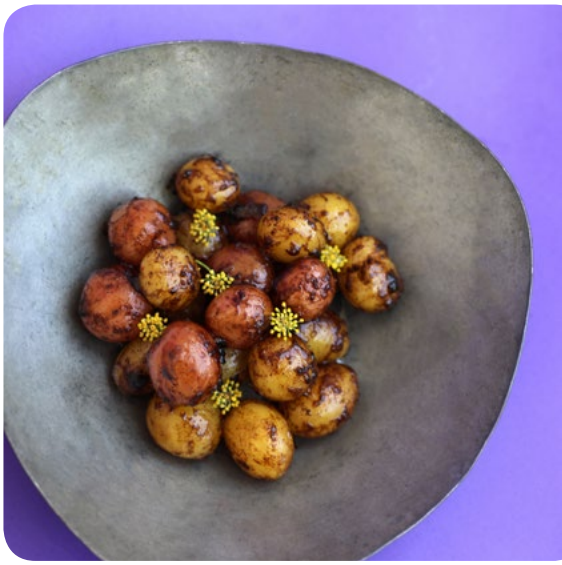
A: The Markon Essentials® (ESS) line of vegetables is perfect for when appearance isn't a high priority, for example when slicing or chopping into soups or sauces. I love the ugly produce movement—preventing food waste—and these items are a part of that.

- ESS Bell Peppers are ideal for using in soups, salsas, omelets, and pasta sauces.
- ESS Lemons work well for juicing and zesting.
- ESS Cauliflower can be used in fried rice, stir-fry, and crudite recipes.

Chef Gary Hill,
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.



Warm Potato Salad with Black Garlic

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

Get the full recipe >

Tips for Serving Plums

- Grill halved plums and duck breasts; serve over sauteed Ready-Set-Serve® (RSS) Triple-Washed Spinach.
- Press plum halves into frangipane batter; bake in pastry crust; serve with ginger whipped cream.
- Offer Bresaola-wrapped plum slices on cheese platters.
- Grill halved plums and chopped chicken thighs until charred; drizzle with roasted chile-yogurt dressing.

Browse additional usage tips >

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Bright flavors like ginger, lemongrass, and watercress balance the earthiness of this vegetable bisque. Serve in delicate, sterilized eggshells for a dramatic presentation.

Produce Highlights

Avocados

- Prices are escalating.
- Mexican stocks are extremely limited.

Green Beans

- Supplies are scarce.
- Inclement weather in the main North American growing regions will cause a supply gap from mid-June through late July.

Lemons

- Expect markets to continue climbing through the summer.
- California supplies are tightening.

Apples

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
WA, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

Golden Delicious and Granny Smith prices are inching up; 125- and 138-count storage stocks are diminishing. Washington Markon First Crop® (MFC) Fuji, Gala, Granny Smith, and Red Delicious Apples are available. Packer label Autumn Glory, Envy, Jazz, Pacific Rose, and Pink Lady stocks are also on the market. The Braeburn and Honeycrisp seasons have ended. Overall quality is very good: fruit is crisp and juicy. Sugar levels range from 14 to 18 Brix.

Asparagus

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
MEX	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
PERU	^^^	★★☆☆☆	$$$

The market is low; overall supplies are abundant. Mexican quality is very good: tips are tight, stalks are firm, and flavor is pleasantly grassy. MFC Asparagus is available.

Avocados

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^	★★★★☆	$$$
MEX	^	★★★★☆	$$$

Prices are escalating. Mexican stocks are extremely limited. California fruit is available, but tight; crop estimates are down approximately 50% from last season due to last summer's warmer-than-normal temperatures. RSS Avocado Chunks, Halves, Pico de Gallo Guacamole, and Pure Pulp are available.

Bells: Green

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^	★★★☆☆	$$$
GA, USA	^^	★★★☆☆	$$$
NC, USA	^	★★★☆☆	$$$

Expect elevated markets for the rest of June. Supplies are tightening as production transitions north on both coasts. Quality is average, but will improve once new crop stocks start shipping. MFC and ESS Green Bell Peppers are available.

Bells: Red and Yellow

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^	★★★☆☆	$$$
GA, USA	^	★★★☆☆	$$$

The market is climbing; supplies will tighten as the California desert and Georgia seasons wind down over the next two to three weeks. Quality is average. MFC and ESS Red Bell Peppers are sporadic.

Blackberries

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^	★★★★☆	$$$

Prices are stable; California stocks will increase through the summer. 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, USA	^	★★★★☆	$$$
FL, USA	^^	★★★★☆	$$$
GA, USA	^^	★★★★☆	$$$
MEX/TX	^	★★★★☆	$$$

The market is rising. Supplies are diminishing in California and Mexico. East Coast harvesting is moving north. 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, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
MEX/TX	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

Prices are steady; stocks are abundant. Quality is very good despite inclement California weather: incidences of mildew and yellow discoloration are minimal. MFC Broccoli Crowns are on the market.

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Cantaloupe

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
AZ, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
CA, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
FL, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
TX, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

The market is weak; domestic stocks are plentiful. Sugar levels range from 12 to 16 Brix. MFC Cantaloupe Melons are available.

Cauliflower

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$

Prices are inching up; supplies are adequate. Quality is average: slight discoloration, ricey texture, and uneven growth are industry-wide issues. ESS Cauliflower is available.

Celery

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$

The market is elevated. Planted acreage is below normal this season. Production will start in Michigan in July, increasing overall stocks. MFC Celery is available.

Cucumbers

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
MEX/CA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
NC, USA	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$
NJ, USA	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$

Prices are stable; supplies are sufficient. Mexico's Baja region will be the West Coast's main growing region this summer. The New Jersey and North Carolina seasons are getting started.

Grapes

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
MEX	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

Prices are unchanged. MFC Lunch Bunch Grapes are being shipped from Mexico beginning this week. ESS Red and Green Seedless grapes are also on the market.

Green Leaf/Variety Lettuce

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^^	★★☆☆☆	$$$

Prices continue to rise. Expect tight stocks for several weeks due to harvesting gaps and quality problems like growth cracking, internal burn, seeder, and sun scalding. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is sporadic.

Honeydew

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
MEX/AZ	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

The market is stable; domestic supplies are ample. Quality is very good: sugar levels range from 14 to 15 Brix. Domestic MFC Honeydew Melons are on the market.

Iceberg Lettuce

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^^	★★☆☆☆	$$$

The market continues to climb. Expect limited supplies for several weeks due to harvesting gaps and quality problems like growth cracking, internal burn, seeder, and sun scalding. MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is sporadic.

Lemons

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$

Expect markets to continue climbing through the summer. California supplies are tightening, especially small sizes; demand is strong. Quality is good: scarring is minimal. MFC and ESS Lemons are available.

Limes

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
MEX/TX	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$

Prices are a bit higher than last week due to rain; volume is average. Quality is being monitored carefully: oil spotting, yellowing, and stylar end rot are concerns. MFC and ESS Limes are on the market.

Onions

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
NM, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

The market is low. New crop, fresh-run MFC Onions will be available in California and New Mexico through the summer. Quality is very good: fresh-run onions have feathery skins and light color compared to Northwest storage onions.

Oranges

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^^	★★★★★	$$$
FL, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

Prices are level. New crop Valencia stocks are dominated by 88-count and larger sizes. California quality is excellent: sugar levels range from 12 to 14 Brix. MFC and ESS Valencia Oranges are on the market.

Pears

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
WA, USA	^^^	★★★★★	$$$

The market is unchanged; storage volume is average for this time of year. MFC D'Anjou Pears are available, as well as packer label Bosc fruit; 120-count and smaller sizes are tight. Sugar levels range from 12 to 14 Brix. California Bartletts will be available in mid-July.

Pineapple

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CR	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
MEX/TX	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

Prices are stable; stocks are adequate. Overall quality is very good: fruit is juicy with tangy, sweet flavor. Sugar levels range from 13 to 16 Brix.

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Potatoes

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
ID, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
OR, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
WA, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
WI, USA	^^^	★★☆☆☆	$$$

Prices for 40- to 80-count Burbanks are inching up; the crop is dominated by small sizes. New crop Norkotahs will hit the market in August. MFC Idaho Burbank Potatoes are available; size is dominated by 80- to 100-count stocks. Northwest quality is very good: storage crop defects are minimal.

Raspberries

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
MEX/CA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

The market is unchanged. Growers are harvesting in California and Baja, Mexico; expect more plentiful supplies over the summer months. Quality is very good: berries are plump and juicy with sweet flavor. Sugar levels range from 13 to 14 Brix.

Romaine

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^^	★★☆☆☆	$$$

Prices continue to rise. Expect tight stocks for several weeks due to harvesting gaps and quality problems like growth cracking, internal burn, seeder, and sun scalding. MFC Premium Romaine is sporadic.

Salads & Blends

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^^	★★☆☆☆	$$$

The market is up; iceberg and romaine supplies are tight. Quality is fair: heat-related quality problems are prevalent throughout the industry. 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, USA	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$

Prices are elevated; inclement weather (including extreme heat and unseasonable rain) are causing quality problems that are reducing volume. RSS Conventional and Organic Spring Mixes are available.

Squash

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$
GA, USA	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$
NC, USA	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$

The market is starting to inch down. Zucchini supplies are plentiful; yellow squash stocks have increased a bit since last week. East Coast growers are transitioning from Georgia to North Carolina. Quality is good: scarring and softness are slight issues.

Strawberries

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

Prices are stable. Production will be focused in California's Salinas/Watsonville region through the summer; volume is high. Quality is very good: bleeding and bruising are minor problems in some lots. MFC Strawberries are available.

Tomatoes

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
GA, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
MEX	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
NC, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
SC, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

Prices are a bit lower than last week. The Mexican crop is dominated by large-size fruit; small sizes are tight. Domestic harvesting is getting underway in California and the Carolinas; ample volume is expected in July. Quality is very good: fruit is plump, texture is firm, and skin is smooth.

Tree Fruit

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

The domestic nectarine, peach, and plum markets are steady; summer supplies continue to increase. Quality is very good: sugar levels are low (ranging from 10 to 11 Brix), but will rise as the seasons progress.

Watermelon

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
FL, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
GA, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
MEX/AZ	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
TX, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

The market is low; domestic supplies are abundant. The Mexican season is ending, but there are multiple domestic regions in production. Quality is very good: sugar levels range from 10 to 12 Brix.

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