

CONFIDENCE
IN EVERY CASE.



Highlights

- Markon First Crop® (MFC) Premium Romaine weights are higher on average than the rest of the industry (36 to 38 pounds compared with 34 to 37 pounds).
- Salinas Valley row crop prices have leveled and are expected to inch down by next week.
- California-grown peaches and nectarines began shipping last week. California-grown plums will hit the market the week of June 15.

Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF MAY 31, 2020 | CANADIAN EDITION

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: Mediterranean flavors are healthy and delicious. What are your go-to Mediterranean ingredients?

A: Some of my favorites include olive oil, numerous varieties of olives, artichokes, fire-roasted bell peppers, anchovies, sardines, Feta cheese, za'atar seasoning, espelette, preserved lemons, Calabrian chiles, chickpeas, cucumbers, sun dried tomatoes, mint, basil, parsley, lavender, eggplant, red onion, zucchini, yellow squash, yogurt, kefir, and couscous.

- These ingredients work well in salads, sauces, dressings, and grain bowls.
- Roast whole Branzino with basil, mint, parsley, Kalamata olives, and roasted red and yellow bell peppers; drizzle with a sauce of kefir, cucumbers, red onions, and anchovies.
- Braise za'atar-seasoned chicken thighs with preserved lemons, chunks of eggplant, tomatoes, and chickpeas; serve over couscous and garnish with Feta cheese.

*Chef Nick Gonring,
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.



Smoked Salmon with Watercress Chimchurri

Perfect for any season, this hardwood-smoked salmon gets brightness from lemon and watercress. Serve with seeded crackers to add some crunch!

Get the full recipe >

Tips for Serving Spring Mix

- Toss Ready-Set-Serve® (RSS) Spring Mix with thick slices of sauteed MFC Portabella Mushrooms, Parmesan croutons, and creamy garlic dressing.
- Toss RSS Spring Mix and steamed MFC Asparagus; top with poached egg and crumbled bacon.
- Mix RSS Spring Mix with pepper-seared ahi tuna, roasted MFC Red Bell Peppers, sliced MFC Cucumbers, and snipped MFC Chives; top with creamy wasabi dressing.



Browse additional usage tips >

To learn more about Markon brands, please contact your sales representative | markon.com



Comfort foods like this creamy cheesecake are dominating Covid-19 take-away and delivery menus. Add color and freshness with simple berries and sprigs of fresh rosemary.

Produce Highlights

Asparagus

- Supplies are increasing; prices are easing.
- Volume is ramping up in Central Mexico and Michigan.

Melons

- Domestic MFC Cantaloupe and Honeydew are available.
- 15- and 18-count cantaloupes are plentiful; 9- and 12-count sizes are tighter.

Oranges

- New crop Valencia orange production is in full swing.
- Demand is strong; the market is rising.

Fresh Crop Report

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Apples



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

The 100- to 138-count market is weaker than prices for 56- through 72-count packs. The Michigan season is winding down. Washington MFC Braeburn, Gala, Granny Smith, and Red Delicious Apples are available; Fuji and Golden Delicious are tightening. Specialty varieties like Autumn Glory, Braeburn, and Honeycrisp are also on the market. Sugar levels range from 14 to 18 Brix.

Asparagus



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
MI, USA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
WA, USA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Supplies are increasing; prices are easing. Volume is ramping up in Central Mexico and Michigan. Limited stocks are being harvested in California and Washington. Quality is very good. MFC Asparagus is available.

Avocados



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

The market is unchanged; 48-count and larger sizes are most plentiful. Quality is very good: texture is creamy and flavor is slightly nutty. RSS Avocado Chunks, Halves, Pico de Gallo Guacamole, and Pure Pulp available.

Bells: Green



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
GA, USA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are level. East Coast production is focused in Georgia; California volume is rising. Quality is very good: skins are smooth and flavor is zesty. MFC and Markon Essentials® (ESS) Green Bell Peppers are available.

Bells: Red and Yellow



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
GA, USA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market remains elevated. Production well underway in California and Georgia. Overall quality is very good. MFC and ESS Red Bell Peppers are available.

Blackberries



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

Prices are level; sufficient in both growing regions. Quality is very good: color is deep indigo and flavor is mildly floral and sweet. Sugar levels range from 12 to 13 Brix.

Blueberries



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
FL, USA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
GA, USA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is steady; supplies are adequate. Quality is very good: berries are plump and flavorful. Sugar levels range from 12 to 16 Brix.

Broccoli



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

Prices are low; California stocks are ample on the Central Coast and in the Salinas Valley. Mexican supplies (into McAllen, Texas) are also on the market. Quality is very good: size ranges from medium to large heads. MFC Broccoli Crowns are available.



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Cantaloupe



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

The market is steady; 15- and 18-count supplies are the most plentiful. The offshore season has ended. Quality is very good: sugar levels range from 11 to 13 Brix. Domestic MFC Cantaloupe Melons are available.

Cauliflower



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

Prices are low; stocks are plentiful. Quality is very good: color is snowy white. ESS Cauliflower is available.

Celery



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

The market is inching down; volume is average. The disease *Fusarium* is reducing supplies in some West Coast lots. MFC Celery is available.

Cucumbers



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

Prices are steady; supplies are adequate on both coasts. Quality is very good: skins are smooth and flavor is refreshing. MFC Cucumbers are available.

Grapes



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

The Chilean season has ended. Mexican stocks are on the market. Quality is very good. MFC Lunch Bunch Grapes and Grape Escape stemless supplies are available.

Green Leaf/Variety Lettuce



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

Prices are inching down; Salinas Valley supplies are abundant. Quality is very good. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is available.

Honeydew



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

The market is stable. The offshore season has ended; stocks are available from California and Mexico. Quality is very good: sugar levels range from 10 to 13 Brix. Domestic MFC Honeydew Melons are available.

Iceberg Lettuce



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

Prices are starting to ease; Salinas Valley volume is rising. Quality is very good: head weights are up. MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is available.

Lemons



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

The market is level; California supplies are sufficient. Quality is very good: flavor is pleasantly sour. MFC and ESS Lemons are available.

Limes



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

Prices are low; Mexican stocks are plentiful. Quality is very good: fruit is juicy with complex, sour flavor and smooth skins. MFC and ESS Limes are on the market.

Onions



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
ID, USA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
MEX/TX	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
NM, USA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
OR, USA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
UT, USA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
TX, USA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
WA, USA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is weak. Fresh-run onions are shipping from California, New Mexico, and Texas. The Northwest storage season is winding down. New crop quality is excellent: fresh-run onions have feathery skins and light color. MFC Red and Yellow Onions are on the market.

Oranges



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

New crop Valencia orange production is in full swing; the crop is dominated by 88-count and larger sizes. Demand is strong; prices are rising. Quality is very good: 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 stable. Washington MFC D'Anjou Pears are on the market. California Bartletts will become available in mid-July. The Washington Bartlett season will start in early August, with D'Anjou harvesting following in mid-September.

Pineapple



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

Prices are unchanged. Quality is excellent: fruit is juicy with tangy, yet sweet flavor. Sugar levels are, on average, above 13 Brix.



Fresh Crop Report

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Potatoes



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

Prices for 40- to 70-count supplies is a bit higher than the market for small sizes; the Norkotah season is ending. Northwest storage crop quality is average: pressure bruising and hollow heart are minor issues. New crop production will start in early August. MFC Burbank Potatoes are the main variety being shipped, although a limited number of Norkotahs remain available.

Raspberries



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

The market is weak; stocks are abundant. Quality is very good: berries are plump and sweet. Sugar levels range from 13 to 14 Brix.

Romaine



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

Prices have eased; Salinas Valley supplies are ample. Quality is very good; head weights are increasing. MFC Premium Romaine Lettuce is available.

Salads & Blends



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

The market is unchanged; iceberg and romaine supplies are plentiful. Markon inspectors are closely monitoring finished cartons to achieve the best packs.

Spring Mix



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

Prices are stable; California stocks are abundant. Quality is very good. RSS Conventional and Organic Spring Mixes are available.

Squash



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

The market is steady; supplies are adequate on both coasts. Quality is very good: scarring and softness are occasional problems. MFC Yellow Squash and Zucchini are available.

Strawberries



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

Prices are level. Although the Santa Maria region is past peak production, Salinas/Watsonville volume is high. Quality is improving as weather is now warm and dry. MFC Strawberries are available.

Tomatoes



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

The market is slightly higher than it was last week; domestic production is on the rise. Mexico's spring harvesting is underway in the Baja region. Overall quality is very good.

Tree Fruit



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

California-grown peaches and nectarines began shipping last week. Quality is good: sugar levels range from 10 to 12 Brix, but will climb as the seasons progress. California-grown plums will hit the market the week of June 15; sugar levels are expected to range from 12 to 14 Brix.

Watermelon



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
FL, USA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
TX, USA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are a bit higher than last week. The offshore season has ended. Mexican and domestic stocks are limited. Quality is very good: color is deep red, texture is firm, and flavor is sweet.



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by MARKON

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