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## Highlights

- Markon First Crop® (MFC) Premium Green Leaf weights are much higher on average than the rest of the industry (22 to 25 pounds compared with 19 to 24 pounds).
- Elevated temperatures are forecast in the Salinas Valley through Labor Day. Markon inspectors are monitoring supplies closely. Lettuce and baby leaf items can be particularly susceptible to heat stress and/or reduced shelf-life.
- Hurricane Ida caused major damage to the southeastern U.S., especially Louisiana and Mississippi. Bell peppers, cucumbers, eggplant, green beans, squash, and tomatoes will be heavily impacted.

# Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 5, 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:** Ready-Set-Serve® (RSS) Heart-Y Slaw takes the classic cabbage side dish and adds in more vitamin- and flavor-boosting ingredients like broccoli, radishes, cauliflower pearls, carrots, and kale. How do you use it?

**A:** I love using this blend in a sauté application. There are some dishes I have put together like okonomiyaki (a Japanese street food/frittata-like savory cabbage pancake). It also makes a quick and easy (and delicious!) stir-fried or roasted side dish.

- Toss RSS Heart-Y Slaw right out of the bag with a citrus vinaigrette or a creamy Greek tzatziki dressing.
- Stir-fry with chopped chicken, crunchy water chestnuts, and a sesame-garlic sauce; serve with white rice.
- Combine with honey mustard and use as a hot dog, sandwich, or burger topper.

*Chef Jonathon Merrick,  
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.



## Blossomed Onions with Balsamic

As delicious in taste as they are beautiful in presentation, these blossomed onions are a healthier version of the fried favorite.

**Get the full recipe >**

## Tips for Serving Peaches

- Arrange grilled peaches, nectarines, and plums around gooey Burrata cheese; garnish with chopped pistachios and chia seeds.
- Toss shaved peaches with RSS Romaine Ribbons, candied walnuts, and chunks of blue cheese.
- Add peach chunks to mayonnaise-based sandwich salad mixes such as chicken, turkey, and deviled ham.
- Serve wedges of rustic peach and ginger crostada with a scoop of buttermilk ice cream.



**Browse additional usage tips >**



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Sticky, sweet, and juicy, these charred peaches are a succulent summer dessert.

## Produce Highlights

### Asparagus

- Prices have peaked.
- Hurricane Nora's path shifted to the east, avoiding the Baja growing regions.

### Cucumbers

- The market is rising.
- Recent storms are affecting volume in many growing regions.

### Oranges

- California Navels are expected to begin shipping in mid- to late October.
- Valencia supplies will be extremely limited until the Navel Season begins.

## Apples



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

New crop Washington MFC Fuji, Gala, Golden Delicious, and Red Delicious Apples are entering the market. Granny Smith stocks are limited, especially 88- to 138-count sizes, but will ramp up as the season progresses. New crop quality is excellent: sugar levels range from 12 to 14 Brix.

## Asparagus



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

Prices have peaked. Hurricane Nora's path shifted to the east, avoiding the Baja growing regions. Peruvian volume remains sufficient but demand is strong. Quality is good: tips are firm, color is bright, and flavor is grassy. MFC Asparagus is available.

## Avocados



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

High markets persist; volume is low as Mexico's Flora Loca season is ending. Production is almost over in California and Peru as well. Quality is very good: texture is creamy and flavor is nutty. RSS Avocado Chunks, Halves, Pico de Gallo Guacamole, and Pure Pulp are available.

## Bells: Green



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

Prices are a bit lower than last week despite some harvesting disruptions caused by Hurricane Ida. California stocks are ample. West Coast quality is best. MFC and Markon Essentials® (ESS) Green Bell Peppers are available.

## Bells: Red and Yellow



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

The West Coast market is steady. Supplies are meeting demand and keeping prices from rising due to any East Coast shortages caused by Hurricane Ida. West Coast quality is best: color is vibrant and shape is elongated. MFC and ESS Red Bell Peppers are available.

## Blackberries



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

Prices are unchanged; California supplies are sufficient. Quality is very good: berries are plump and juicy with tangy-sweet flavor.

## Blueberries



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

The market is level. New crop stocks are beginning to increase. Quality is good: berries are plump and sweet.

## Broccoli



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

Prices are low; California supplies are plentiful. Mexican-grown stocks are available in South Texas. Crown quality is very good: brown bead, hollow core, and yellowing are sporadic issues. MFC Broccoli is available.



# Fresh Crop Report

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## Cantaloupe



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

The market is stable. Large sizes are most prevalent. Quality is very good: sugar levels range from 11 to 13 Brix. Domestic MFC Cantaloupes are available.

## Cauliflower



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

Prices are weak; stocks are ample. Quality is very good: browning is a minor issue in some fields. ESS Cauliflower is available.

## Celery



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

The market is low. High volume persists in California's Salinas Valley and Michigan. Seeder is an occasional problem. MFC Celery is available.

## Cucumbers



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

Prices are rising. Recent storms are affecting volume in multiple growing regions. Extra grading is required in some lots. MFC and ESS Cucumbers are available.

## Grapes



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

Markets will remain weak through September; domestic supplies are plentiful. Quality is very good: fruit is firm, yet juicy with subtly sweet flavor. Domestic MFC and ESS Green and Red Seedless Grapes are available.

## Green Leaf/Variety Lettuce



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

Prices are weak; supplies are ample. Quality is very good: internal and fringe burn are minor problems. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is available.

## Honeydew



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

The market is level; stocks are adequate. Sugar levels range from 10 to 12 Brix. Domestic MFC Honeydew Melons are on the market.

## Iceberg Lettuce



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

Prices are inching up; weights are lower than in past weeks. Internal burn, mildew pressure, and seeder are affecting some lots. MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is sporadic; Markon Best Available (MBA) is being substituted as needed.

## Lemons



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

The market will continue to climb through the fall; domestic supplies are limited. Imported lemons are being shipped from Argentina (East Coast), Chile (East and West) and Mexico (Texas). MFC and ESS Lemons are available.

## Limes



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

Prices are elevated. Recent hurricanes and tropical storms have reduced volume in Mexico. Quality is average: potential problems include stilar, oil spotting, and scarring. MFC and ESS Limes are available.

## Onions



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

MFC Onions are being shipped out of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. The Northwest crop size profile is smaller than normal, favoring medium and jumbo sizes. Utah-grown MFC Onions are also on the market. Packer label onions are available in Colorado.

## Oranges



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

California Navels are expected to begin shipping in mid- to late October. Valencia supplies will be extremely limited until the Navel Season begins. The Early orange variety will ship from Mexico (into McAllen, Texas) in early to mid-October; Texas early oranges will hit the market in early November.

## Pears



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

The market is level. New crop California Bartlett stocks are abundant; supplies will be shipped through late October. Washington Bartlett production has begun; D'Anjou will hit the market next week.

## Pineapple



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CR	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
ECUADOR	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are elevated, but supplies are beginning to increase after an industry-wide supply gap. Quality is very good: sugar levels are approximately 15 Brix.



# Fresh Crop Report

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## Potatoes



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

Prices should start to ease over the next week or two. Field-run MFC Norkotah Potatoes are now shipping. Quality is good: minor skinning and excess moisture might be observed in fresh-run potatoes. U.S. No. 2 stocks are tight; new crop potatoes exhibit very few quality defects during the early stages of harvesting.

## Raspberries



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

The market is level; new crop fall berries are becoming more plentiful. Quality is very good: berries are deep red, plump, and sweet.

## Romaine



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

Prices are up due to recent quality challenges including fringe and internal burn, mildew pressure, and seeder. MFC Premium Romaine Lettuce is sporadic; MBA is being packed as necessary.

## Salads & Blends



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

The market is steady despite tightening raw product supplies. Quality problems in iceberg and romaine include fringe and internal burn, mildew pressure, and seeder. Maintaining the cold chain is critical, especially during the hot summer and early fall months.

## Spring Mix



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

Elevated temperatures are forecast in the Salinas Valley through Labor Day. Markon inspectors are monitoring supplies closely. Lettuce and baby leaf items such as arugula and spring mix can be particularly susceptible to heat stress and/or reduced shelf-life. RSS Conventional and Organic Spring Mixes are available.

## Squash



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

West Coast markets are steady. East Coast are higher due to recent hurricanes, but enough regions are harvesting to meet demand. Yellow squash is tighter than zucchini. West Coast quality is best: skins are smooth and flavor is pleasantly bitter. Mexican production will move to Sonora is two to three weeks.

## Strawberries



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

Prices are inching up. The Salinas/Watsonville season is ending; growers are transitioning to Santa Maria for fall harvesting. Quality is very good: size is large and flavor is sweet. MFC Strawberries are available in Markon's recyclable cardboard or plastic clamshells.

## Tomatoes



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

Round tomato markets are steady despite strong demand. California remains the main growing region. Smaller regional deals on the East Coast are suffering due to rain and strong winds caused by Hurricane Ida (particularly Alabama). Vine ripe and Roma stocks are sufficient in Baja, Mexico. MFC Tomatoes are on the market.

## Tree Fruit



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

Prices are inching up. The California apricot season has ended. Nectarines and peaches will remain on the market for a week or two more. Sugar levels range from 10 to 12 Brix. Plums will be shipped through mid-October. Sugar levels range from 12 and 14 Brix. The Georgia peach season has ended.

## Watermelon



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

The market is low; volume is high. New crop California desert harvesting is at its peak. Large sizes are abundant. Quality is very good: fruit is sweet and juicy.



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