

CONFIDENCE
IN EVERY CASE.



Highlights

- Markon First Crop® (MFC) Premium Iceberg weights are higher on average than the rest of the industry (42 to 49 pounds compared with 36 to 43 pounds).
- Avocado supplies remain extremely limited as Mexico's current crop is winding down. The California and Peruvian seasons are also ending.
- The effects of Hurricane Ida have delayed harvests in Kentucky, New Jersey, Tennessee, and West Virginia and caused some growers to replant entirely in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2021 | 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: Onions are used in nearly every type of cuisine and savory day part. What's our favorite way to highlight its pungent flavor?

A: I prefer to dissolve the pungency of the onion and highlight the sweet and savory notes. Onions go in almost every sauce I make especially my tomato sauce. Paulie was wrong in the movie Goodfellas—you can never add too many onions to tomato sauce. The scenario where I do highlight the pungency is on a delicious burger, in this case I love a sweet or red onion.

- As fall arrives, the classic French onion soup makes a comforting meal. I like to serve mine with tender short rib meat to boost the umami.
- Fried blooming onions have trended for years, but how about unbreaded, baked blooming onions? Healthier, more sophisticated, and incredible plate presentation. Just drizzle with balsamic syrup and serve.

*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.



Jackfruit Tacos with Ready-Set-Serve Heart-Y Slaw

Spicy jackfruit mimics pulled pork without all of the fat and cholesterol. Top these on-trend tacos with crunchy, creamy slaw for the perfect hand-held treat.

Get the full recipe >

Tips for Serving Onions

- Which dishes aren't onions used in? Try Ready-Set-Serve® (RSS) Onions of all cuts and packs to make prep easier and reduce waste.
- Raw in salsas, sautéed in sauces and soups, fried for crunchy toppers and appetizers, roasted to deepen flavor, onions are versatile and delicious.
- Northwest storage onions have thick, yet papery skins and juicy, zesty-flavored flesh. They are at their flavor peak in fall.

Browse additional usage tips >





Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

Apples



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

The market has stabilized. New crop Washington MFC Fuji, Gala, Golden Delicious, and Red Delicious Apples are now available. Granny Smith supplies are limited, especially 88- to 138-count sizes, but will increase 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, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
PERU	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are high. Supplies remain extremely limited as Mexico's current crop is winding down. The California and Peruvian seasons are also ending. 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, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
EAST COAST	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
MEX/TX	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

The market is holding steady despite some harvesting disruptions caused by Hurricane Ida. California volume is high. West Coast quality is best. MFC and Markon Essentials® (ESS) Green Bell Peppers are available.

Bells: Red and Yellow



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
CAN	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
EAST COAST	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

West Coast markets are stable. Consistent volume is keeping markets from climbing 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, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

High prices are expected through early October; supplies are tightening as growers transition into Mexican growing regions. Quality will remain average until new crop fruit is fully available.

Blueberries



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
GA, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
PNW	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Firm prices are forecast through mid- to late September. The Pacific Northwest season is nearly over, limiting stocks. Quality is good: berries are plump and sweet.

Broccoli



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

Markets have increased due to reduced supplies from multiple growing regions. Stocks are forecast to remain tight over the next week. Inconsistent weather has slowed California growth considerably and rain is hurting Mexican volume. Crown quality is very good: brown bead, hollow core, and yellowing are occasional problems. MFC Broccoli is available.

A dream crostini appetizer for gluten-free diners, these sweet potato rounds are topped with a variety of flavors and textures, making it a scrumptious bite.

Produce Highlights

Broccoli & Cauliflower

- Prices have increased due to reduced supplies from multiple growing regions.
- Stocks are forecast to remain tight over the next week.

Lettuces

- Green leaf prices are steady at lower levels.
- Iceberg and romaine markets are higher.

Mixed Berries

- Blueberry, blackberry, and raspberry supplies are tightening as growers transition into fall growing regions.
- Firm prices are expected through September.



Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

Cantaloupe



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
AZ, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
CA, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are unchanged. Large sizes dominate availability. Quality is very good: sugar levels range from 11 to 13 Brix. Domestic MFC Cantaloupes are on the market.

Cauliflower



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

Markets have increased. Stocks are forecast to remain tight over the next week. Inconsistent weather has slowed California growth considerably. Quality is very good: browning is an occasional issue. ESS Cauliflower is available.

Celery



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
MI, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are inching up slightly; supplies have dipped. Quality is very good: seeder is a minor issue. MFC Celery is available.

Cucumbers



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

The market is inching up. Hurricanes and heavy rain reduced new crop plantings; East Coast volume has fallen and extra grading is required in some lots. The Georgia and North Carolina seasons will start this week. MFC and ESS Cucumbers are on the market.

Grapes



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

Expect low prices for several weeks; domestic stocks are abundant. 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, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

The market is holding at low levels; volume is high. Quality is very good: internal and fringe burn are occasional issues. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is available.

Honeydew



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
AZ, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
CA, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are stable. Sugar levels range from 10 to 12 Brix. MFC Honeydew Melons are available.

Iceberg Lettuce



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

Expect higher markets for the next two weeks. Salinas Valley yields and carton weights have fallen; inconsistent weather has impacted quality and hindered growth. MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is sporadic; Markon Best Available (MBA) is being substituted as needed.

Lemons



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
ARG	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
CA, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
CHILE	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are high; domestic stocks are tight. 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	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Markets are stabilizing; new crop production is increasing. Quality is very good: potential issues include styler, oil spotting, and scarring. MFC and ESS Limes are available.

Onions



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CO, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
ID, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
OR, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
WA, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Prices will start inching down soon. MFC Onions are being shipped out of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Northwest supplies are smaller than normal, dominated by 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, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
IMPORTS	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

The California Navel season is forecast to start in mid- to late October. Until then, Valencia stocks will be scarce and high-priced. The Early orange variety will ship from Mexico (into McAllen, Texas) in early to mid-October; Texas early oranges will become available in early November.

Pears



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
WA, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are unchanged. New crop California Bartlett supplies are plentiful and will be shipped through late October. Washington Bartlett production is fully underway; D'Anjous are now being harvested as well.

Pineapple



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

The market is starting to stabilize; stocks are becoming more plentiful after an industry-wide supply gap. Quality is very good: sugar levels are approximately 15 Brix.



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Potatoes



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

The market is starting to inch down. 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. Expect better quality once stocks have gone through the sweat process and are in storage.

Raspberries



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

Firm prices are expected through September; supplies are tightening. Mexico will become the main growing region in early October; stocks will increase as that season ramps up. Quality is average, but will improve when new crop fruit is on the market.

Romaine



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

Expect higher markets for the next two weeks. Salinas Valley yields and carton weights have fallen; inconsistent weather has impacted quality and hindered growth. MFC Premium Romaine Lettuce is sporadic; MBA is being packed as needed.

Salads & Blends



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

Prices are stable despite limited raw product. Quality issues in iceberg and romaine include fringe and internal burn, mildew pressure, and seeder. Maintaining the cold chain is critical.

Spring Mix



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

Hot weather has reduced Salinas Valley harvesting hours and lowered volume. Markon inspectors are monitoring supplies closely. Quality is average: 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, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
EAST COAST	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

West Coast prices are level. East Coast markets remain elevated; damage from recent hurricanes has tightened stocks and affected quality in some states. Yellow squash is limited; zucchini supplies are sufficient. West Coast quality is best: skins are smooth and flavor is pleasantly bitter. Mexican growers will move harvesting to Sonora next week.

Strawberries



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

The market should start easing once Santa Maria production increases. Quality is 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, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
EAST COAST	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are stable. East Coast volume continues to tighten due to the residual effects of Hurricane Ida. Vine ripe and Roma supplies are adequate in Baja, Mexico. Overall quality ranges from good to very good. MFC Tomatoes are available.

Tree Fruit



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

The market is up. The nectarine and peach and peach seasons will end this week. Sugar levels range from 10 to 12 Brix. Plums will be shipped through mid-October. Sugar levels range from 12 and 14 Brix.

Watermelon



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
EAST COAST	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
TX, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are weak; supplies are abundant. New crop California desert harvesting is at its peak. Large dominate that crop. Quality is very good: fruit is sweet and juicy.



READY-SET-SERVE
by MARKON

Ready-Set-Serve (RSS).
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