

CONFIDENCE
IN EVERY CASE.



Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 28, 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: Fall and winter salads incorporate more grains and hearty vegetables. What are your favorite flavor combinations for this time of year?

A: I love to use beets not only for their great earthy flavor but their vibrant color as well. Winter squashes are also a favorite, including Butternut, Acorn, Kabocha, and Calabaza. In the grain category I love farro, spelt, and quinoa of different shades—they are so versatile and can be cooked employing a variety of techniques.

- Red quinoa adds nutty flavor, contrasting texture and deep color to green- and mayonnaise-based salads.
- Slice roasted red and yellow beets and toss with greens like Ready-Set-Serve® (RSS) Wild Arugula, RSS Heritage Blend, and RSS Hearts & Hearts.

*Chef Adam Walkover,
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.



Spanish Tortilla Bites

Bite-size bar snacks are more sophisticated than ever! Serve these comforting potato omelet appetizers topped with crunchy, colorful radishes.

Get the full recipe >

Highlights

- Markon First Crop® (MFC) Premium Iceberg Lettuce weights are higher on average than the rest of the industry (35 to 48 pounds compared with 33 to 44 pounds).
- Iceberg prices are falling. Green leaf and romaine markets are slightly lower.
- California's Imperial Desert region will ship adequate quantities of red bell peppers through mid-December.

Tips for Serving RSS Heritage Blend

- Upgrade house salads with this colorful, hearty blend.
- Pair with bold flavors like blue cheese, pickled onions, roasted fennel, or shaved Parmesan.
- Top with proteins such as grilled salmon, poached eggs, sliced steak, or stir-fried tofu.
- Use RSS Heritage Blend as a base for grilled tuna, salmon, and swordfish.



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Easy to make and gorgeous in presentation, Hasselback potatoes are ideal for lunch and dinner menus.

Produce Highlights

Northwest Potatoes

- 2021 crop yields are reported down by 15-20% in the Pacific Northwest (Idaho, Oregon and Washington).
- Supplies will remain limited through the rest of the season (July 2022).

Squash

- The Florida and Mexican fall squash seasons are fully underway.
- Stocks are consistent.

Strawberries

- Quality continues to be a challenge. California growing regions have been decimated by recent weather.
- Mexican-grown crops continue to battle size, limiting how much fruit can cross into the United States.

Apples



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

The market is unchanged. Washington MFC Fuji, Gala, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, and Red Delicious Apples are ample, especially 88- to 113-count sizes. Quality is excellent: sugar levels range from 12 to 14 Brix.

Asparagus



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

Prices have stabilized after the Thanksgiving holiday. Supplies are adequate in Mexico and Peru (into Miami, Florida). Quality is very good: tips are firm, color is bright, and flavor is grassy. MFC Asparagus is available.

Avocados



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

The market is level; volume is sufficient out of Michoacan, Mexico. All sizes are available; 60-count and smaller sizes dominate the crop. Quality is very good: texture is creamy and flavor is nutty. RSS Avocado Chunks, Halves, Pico de Gallo Guacamole, and Pure Pulp are on the market.

Bells: Green



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

Prices are steady. Production is winding down in California's Coachella region. Florida stocks are sufficient. Volume is starting to increase in mainland Mexico (into Nogales, Arizona). Quality is good: bruising is a potential issue. MFC and Markon Essentials® (ESS) Green Bell Peppers are on the market.

Bells: Red and Yellow



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

The market is unchanged. California's Imperial Desert region will ship adequate quantities of red bell peppers through mid-December. Production will start in Sonora, Mexico by mid-December. Quality is good: large sizes are limited. MFC and ESS Red Bell Peppers are available.

Blackberries



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

Prices are rising. The California season is past its peak. Mexican supplies are tightening, but the season will peak in mid-December. Quality is good: berries are plump and juicy with full color.

Blueberries



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

The market should remain stable through at least mid-December. Import volume is rising from Argentina, Peru, and Uruguay; Chilean fruit will become available in December. Mexican stocks are sufficient. Quality is excellent: the average berry size ranges from 15 to 17mm. Flavor is sweet with pleasantly tangy undertones.

Broccoli



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

Strong demand and limited stocks are keeping prices elevated. Yuma's new crop season is getting a late start. Rain and cool weather have tightened Mexican supplies. MFC Broccoli is sporadic.



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Cantaloupe



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

Markets are steady. Mexican and offshore supplies have started shipping.

Cauliflower



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

Prices are inching down; stocks are increasing in the Arizona/California desert region. Quality is very good: heads are snowy white. ESS Cauliflower is sporadic.

Celery



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

The market is weak. Growers are harvesting in Oxnard, California and the Arizona/California desert region. Expect prices to rise in mid-December when holiday demand increases. Quality is very good. MFC Celery is available.

Cucumbers



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

The market is up slightly. Growers will harvest in Georgia and Florida until the offshore season starts in early December. Mexican supplies are ample. Quality is very good. MFC and ESS Cucumbers are on the market.

Grapes



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

The market will inch up as the domestic season wraps up. Offshore green grapes will begin shipping in mid-December, followed by reds in late December. Quality is very good: fruit is firm, juicy, and sweet. Domestic MFC and ESS Green and Red Seedless Grapes are available.

Green Leaf/Variety Lettuce



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

The market has stabilized; Yuma volume is rising. Quality is very good: fringe burn is an occasional issue. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is available.

Honeydew



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

Prices are steady. The domestic season has ended. Mexican and offshore supplies have started shipping. Quality is very good.

Iceberg Lettuce



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

Prices are easing. Supplies are becoming more plentiful in the Arizona/California desert regions. Quality is excellent but weights are inconsistent. MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is sporadic; Markon Best Available is being substituted as necessary.

Lemons



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

Domestic volume is rising; prices are level. MFC and ESS Lemons are available.

Limes



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

Prices are steady; new crop winter crop supplies are increasing. Quality is average. MFC and ESS Limes are available.

Onions



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

Storage stocks are available from Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. Size is dominated by medium onions. Growers are concerned about meeting demand in the latter part of the season. Reports indicate volume is down 20-50% from previous years. Growers are looking for alternatives to extend supplies into late April/early May. Markon partners in Texas and California could start seasons earlier than normal, weather permitting. MFC Red and Yellow Onions are available.

Oranges



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

California Navel markets are stable. Fancy grade 72-, 88-, and 113-count sizes dominate the crop. Cooler weather is enhancing color; ethylene gas time is 72 hours. Sugar levels are 12.5 Brix with a mid- to high acid ratio.

Pears



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

The market is unchanged. Quality is very good. MFC Washington Bartlett and D'Anjou Pears are readily available.

Pineapple



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

Prices are starting to inch up; expect strong demand through December. Crops are dominated by 6-count fruit; 5-count sizes are extremely tight.



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Potatoes



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

Idaho and Washington prices are elevated. 2021 crop yields are reported down by 15-20% in the Pacific Northwest (Idaho, Oregon and Washington). Supplies will remain limited through the rest of the season (July 2022). U.S. No. 2 stocks are limited.

Raspberries



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

The market is level. Expect peak California supply levels for another week or two; volume will inch down thereafter. Mexican supplies are adequate. Quality is very good.

Romaine



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

Prices have stabilized; volume is rising in Yuma. Quality is very good: fringe burn is a potential issue. MFC Premium Romaine Lettuce is available.

Salads & Blends



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

The market is steady; new crop iceberg and romaine supplies are increasing in Yuma. Markon's Quality Assurance team has moved with south with growers and continue to monitor quality and processing.

Spring Mix



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

Prices are stable. Growers have moved to Yuma, Arizona. Quality is very good: brittle texture, mildew pressure, and yellowing are potential issues. RSS Conventional and Organic Spring Mixes are available.

Squash



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

The market is stable. The Florida and Mexican fall seasons are fully underway; supplies are consistent. Quality is very good: scarring and scuffing are minor problems. MFC Zucchini and Yellow Squash are available.

Strawberries



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

The market is elevated; supplies are extremely limited as production winds down in Santa Maria, California. Quality continues to be a challenge after multiple rain events. Growers are dealing with excessive bruising, pin-rot, and decay. Crews are culling up to 50% to keep packs as clean as possible. Mexican production has begun in a limited way. Florida's season will begin after Thanksgiving and increase weekly in December. The Oxnard spring crop will start in late December and increase through January. MFC Strawberries are available.

Tomatoes



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

Prices are level; stocks are sufficient. Florida and Mexico are now the main growing regions. Round tomato markets are inching down. Grape tomato volume is high; prices are weak. Mexican vine ripe and Roma supplies are abundant. Quality is very good. MFC Tomatoes are available.

Tree Fruit



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

California nectarines and peaches are not available. Plums will remain on the market another week or two. Offshore fruit will start shipping in late December/early January.

Watermelon



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

The market is unchanged; Mexican stocks are plentiful, especially large sizes. Quality is very good: fruit is sweet and juicy.



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Table-ready fruits & vegetables.
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