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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 32 to 37 pounds).
- Arizona/California temperatures are expected to cool down into the mid-60s to low 70s with shorter days and cooler nights. Growers are now moving into winter lettuce varieties developed for favorable quality and availability during the colder months.
- Mexican strawberry production will increase through December. Florida's season has also begun. Expect more consistent shape, size, color, and flavor as well as a steady increase in volume.

Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF DECEMBER 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: With all of the traditionally heavy ingredients coming into play on winter menus, citrus can play an important role in adding brightness and contrast. How do you suggest chefs do this?

A: I love using citrus to enhance flavor profiles. Plus, they are high in vitamins A and C, with plenty of fiber. In the fall I like a salad of Ready-Set-Serve® (RSS) Lemony Arugula and radicchio, tossed with RSS Grapefruit Segments, grilled shrimp, and toasted walnut vinaigrette. Oranges, one of the oldest types of citrus, can bring freshness to many heavier dishes.

- Try cooking wild rice with half the liquid being RSS Orange Juice or glaze sweet potato slices with a reduction of orange juice, brown sugar, nutmeg, and zest.

*Chef Tim Maness,
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.



Cranberry Compote with MFC Fennel and MFC Oranges

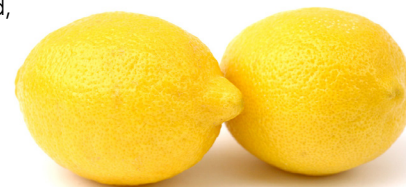
Give cranberries tang and zest with oranges and fresh fennel; simmer until thick and serve with poultry or game.

Get the full recipe >

Tips for Serving Lemons

- Toss RSS Hearts & Hearts, thinly sliced MFC Cucumbers, and slivered almonds; dress with lemon-pepper vinaigrette flavored with the juice and zest of MFC Lemons, Dijon mustard, and cracked black pepper
- Marinate ahi tuna cubes in olive oil, RSS Washed & Trimmed Cilantro, and black pepper; thread on skewers with chunks of MFC Lemons.
- Heat blueberries and the juice of MFC Lemons in a shallow pan until thickened; serve in thin crêpes; garnish with lemon slices and zest.

Browse additional usage tips >





Balance the richness of creamy cheese polenta with the bright-bitter flavors of lemony arugula.

Produce Highlights

Broccoli & Cauliflower

- Prices have decreased.
- Supplies are increasing in multiple growing regions.

Green Leaf Lettuce

- Expect lower markets over the next two weeks.
- Volume continues to increase in the Arizona and California desert growing regions.

Idaho Potatoes

- Supplies of 70- to 100-count supplies will be tight through December.
- Prices are expected to continue rising (all sizes).

Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF DECEMBER 5, 2021

Apples



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

Prices are stable. Washington MFC Fuji, Gala, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, and Red Delicious Apples are abundant, 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is steady. Stocks are sufficient 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are unchanged; adequate supplies are being harvesting in Michoacan, Mexico. All sizes are available; 48-, 60-, and 70-count 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
EAST COAST	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is level. Harvesting is wrapping up in California's Coachella area. Florida supplies are meeting demand. Production is increasing in mainland Mexico (into Nogales, Arizona). Quality is good: bruising is an occasional problem. MFC and Markon Essentials® (ESS) Green Bell Peppers are on the market.

Bells: Red and Yellow



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

Prices are steady. California's Imperial Desert region will ship product for another week or two. Harvesting will begin Sonora, Mexico soon. Quality is good: large sizes are tight. MFC and ESS Red Bell Peppers are available.

Blackberries



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

The market will inch down through December. Although the California season is winding down, Mexican stocks are increasing. Winter varieties are performing well with intense flavor and very few incidences of red cell. Quality ranges from good to very good: berries are plump and juicy with full color.

Blueberries



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

Prices will ease later in December. Although the Peruvian season is ending, Chilean fruit will start shipping in late December/early January. Expect increase production for this season. Mexican volume is rising. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
CA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
MEX/TX	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market has eased. Supplies are increasing in multiple growing regions. Quality is good: pin rot is affecting some lots. MFC Broccoli is available.



Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF DECEMBER 5, 2021

Cantaloupe



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

Prices are stable. Mexican and offshore stocks are now on the market.

Cauliflower



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

The market is easing. Supplies are increasing in multiple growing regions. Quality is very good: expect bright white color and ample size. ESS Cauliflower is available.

Celery



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

Prices are low, but forecast to climb by mid-December when holiday demand strengthens. Quality is very good. MFC Celery is available.

Cucumbers



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

Markets are inching up. East Coast production will continue until the offshore season ramps up later in December. Mexican stocks are plentiful. Quality is very good. MFC and ESS Cucumbers are on the market.

Grapes



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

Domestic prices are up; the season is ending. Offshore green grapes will start shipping in a week or two followed by reds later in the month. 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/CA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Expect lower markets over the next two weeks. Volume continues to increase in the Arizona/California desert growing regions. Quality is very good: mildew pressure and fringe burn are present in some lots. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is available.

Honeydew



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

Prices are level. Mexican and offshore stocks are on the market; volume will increase through the month. Quality is very good.

Iceberg Lettuce



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
AZ/CA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

The market continues to decrease due to abundant supply and weak demand. Quality is very good: growth cracking, mildew pressure, and seeder are issues MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is sporadic due to low weights; Markon Best Available is being substituted as needed.

Lemons



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
ARG	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
AZ/CA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
CHILE	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are unchanged. Stocks are increasing, especially 95- to 115-count sizes. Quality is excellent. MFC and ESS Lemons are available.

Limes



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

The market is level; new crop winter crop volume is rising. Quality is good. MFC and ESS Limes are available.

Onions



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

Storage supplies are shipping from the Northwest. Demand has eased; however, markets remain elevated. Size is dominated by medium onions. Growers are concerned about meeting demand later in the season; 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 begin production earlier than normal, weather permitting. MFC Red and Yellow Onions are available.

Oranges



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

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

Pears



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

Prices are weak. Quality is very good. MFC Washington Bartlett and D'Anjou Pears are readily available.

Pineapple



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

The market is high; strong demand will persist through December. Crops are dominated by 6-count fruit; 5-count sizes are extremely limited.



Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF DECEMBER 5, 2021

Potatoes



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

Markets are expected to continue rising (all sizes). Supplies of 70- to 100-count supplies will be tight through December. 2021 crop yields are reported down by 15-20% in the Pacific Northwest (Idaho, Oregon, and Washington). Tight stocks are forecast through the rest of the season (July 2022). U.S. No. 2 stocks are limited.

Raspberries



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

Prices are stable. Stocks will remain sufficient through the end of the year. Quality is very good: berries are plump and sweet.

Romaine



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
AZ/CA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Expect lower markets over the next two weeks. Volume continues to increase in the Arizona/California desert growing regions. Quality is very good: mildew pressure, fringe burn, and seeder are present in some lots. Quality is very good: fringe burn is a potential issue. MFC Premium Romaine Lettuce is available.

Salads & Blends



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
AZ/CA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are unchanged; iceberg and romaine supplies are abundant 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	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

The market is level; volume is high out of the Arizona desert region. Quality is very good: brittle texture, mildew pressure, and yellowing are occasional problems. RSS Conventional and Organic Spring Mixes are available.

Squash



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

Prices are steady; stocks are sufficient in Florida and Mexico. Quality is very good: scarring and scuffing are potential issues. MFC Zucchini and Yellow Squash are available.

Strawberries



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are starting to ease. Quality continues to be a challenge as the Santa Maria, California season winds down. 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 will increase through December. Florida's season has also begun. Expect more consistent shape, size, color, and flavor as well as a steady increase in volume. The Oxnard spring crop will start in late December and increase through January. MFC Strawberries are available.

Tomatoes



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
FL	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

The market is stable; supplies are adequate. Production is focused in Florida and Mexico. Round tomato prices are a bit lower. Grape tomato stocks are ample; markets are weak. Mexican vine ripens and Romas are plentiful. Quality is very good. MFC Tomatoes are available.

Tree Fruit



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

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

Watermelon



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

Prices are stable; Mexican supplies are abundant, especially large sizes. Quality is very good: fruit is sweet and juicy.



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