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IN EVERY CASE.



Highlights

- Markon First Crop® (MFC) Premium Iceberg weights are higher on average than the rest of the industry (47 to 50 pounds compared with 39 to 44 pounds).
- The iceberg, green leaf, and romaine markets are currently weak, but an impending cold front is expected to reduce volume and increase prices.
- Expect Northwest onion prices to hold firm going into the New Year.

Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF DECEMBER 12, 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: December holidays are a time of true celebration. What are some of your favorite appetizers for these special meals?

A: December is the month chefs especially love to be in the kitchen. Cranberries usually find their way onto menus. I love an appetizer of fresh cranberry chutney and baked brie cheese, served warm on croissant dough rounds. Brussel sprouts are a versatile produce item in the winter. I roast Ready-Set-Serve® (RSS) Brussels Sprout Halves and toss with parmesan for a great appetizer served on bamboo skewers. To add to my culinary toolbox for the holidays, I always make a batch of fresh fig jam and salsa verde (fresh MFC Parsley, Dill, Cilantro, and capers) to use on meatballs or game meat bites.

*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.



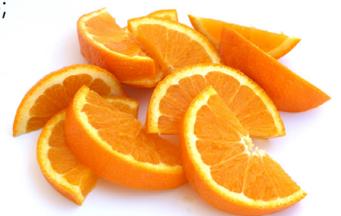
Red Pepper Pesto Pasta with Lemon Shrimp

Sweet, yet zesty, this pasta dish has a touch of lemon, making it light enough for warm-weather days and chilly nights alike.

Get the full recipe >

Tips for Serving Oranges

- Simmer fresh cranberries, sugar, the zest and pulp of MFC Oranges, RSS Orange Juice, jalapeno chile peppers, RSS Pineapple Chunks, fresh ginger, and RSS Washed & Trimmed Cilantro; when fruit is soft and sauce is thickened, remove and chill.
- Stew sliced MFC Navel Oranges with Spanish chorizo, lentils, RSS Sliced Onions, RSS Peeled Garlic, and rich stock; when lentils are tender, serve in bowls.
- Mix couscous with chopped MFC Oranges, sliced MFC Red Onions, torn MFC Mint, sliced green olives; drizzle with olive oil and serve with roasted lamb.



Browse additional usage tips >



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Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF DECEMBER 12, 2021

Apples



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

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

Asparagus



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

Strong holiday demand is driving up prices. Volume has decreased in Mexico and Peru (into Miami, Florida). Expect high markets through January. 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; stocks have dipped, but demand has as well. All sizes are available; 48-, 60-, and 70-count sizes are most plentiful. 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
EAST COAST	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Weak demand has eased prices. Florida growers are in full production; jumbo and extra-large sizes dominate the crop. Volume will increase in Mexico (into Nogales, Arizona) over the next few weeks. Quality is very 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is stable. California's Imperial Desert season will run through December; volume is falling due to cooler weather. The main Mexican field-grown season will start in a few weeks. Quality is good: large sizes are tight. MFC and ESS Red Bell Peppers are available.

Blackberries



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

Prices are starting to ease and will continue to inch down through the month. The California season is ending, but Mexican stocks will increase through December. Quality is very good: flavor is intense with very few incidences of red cell.

Blueberries



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

The market is beginning to fall. Peruvian fruit will ship for a few more weeks; Chilean supplies will enter the market in late December/early January. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are fairly steady as holiday demand starts to ramp up. An upcoming cold front is expected to slow growth and decrease volume. Quality is very good: hollow core is a minor issue. MFC Broccoli is available.



Sweet and sour, crunchy and gooey—these cran-orange mini pavlovas are as craveable as they come!

Produce Highlights

Cauliflower

- Markets are currently low, but forecast to inch up.
- An upcoming cold front will slow growth and tighten stocks.

Limes

- Supplies will increase through the month of December.
- Prices for 250- and 230-count sizes are expected to ease this week.

Strawberries

- Although the Santa Maria, California season is ending, production has begun in Florida and Mexico.
- MFC Strawberries will start shipping out of Florida this week.



Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF DECEMBER 12, 2021

Cantaloupe



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

The market is steady. Mexican and offshore supplies continue to increase. Quality is very good.

Cauliflower



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

Markets are currently low, but forecast to inch up. An upcoming cold front will slow growth and tighten stocks. Quality is very good: expect bright white color and minimal mechanical damage. ESS Cauliflower is available.

Celery



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

Although the market is low, it will start rising next week when holiday demand increases. Quality is very good. MFC Celery is available.

Cucumbers



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

Prices are slightly higher. Supplies are tightened a bit in Florida. Growers will start production in Honduras in two weeks. Mexican stocks are sufficient. Quality is very good. MFC and ESS Cucumbers are on the market.

Grapes



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

The market is elevated. Offshore green grapes will begin shipping later this week, followed by reds by the end of the month. Quality is very good. Domestic MFC and ESS Green and Red Seedless Grapes are available.

Green Leaf/Variety Lettuce



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

Prices have fallen, but an impending cold front will tighten stocks and push up markets by next week. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is available.

Honeydew



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

The market is stable. Mexican supplies are adequate. Offshore volume will climb through the new year; small sizes are limited. Quality is very good.

Iceberg Lettuce



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

Markets are fairly steady at low levels, but this week's colder weather will slow growth and hinder weights. Quality is very good. MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is on the market.

Lemons



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

The market is level. Domestic supplies are ample, especially 95- to 115-count sizes. Quality is excellent. MFC and ESS Lemons are available.

Limes



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

Prices for 250- and 230-count sizes are expected to ease this week. Supplies will increase through the month of December. MFC and ESS Limes are available.

Onions



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

Expect Northwest prices to hold firm going into the New Year. Size is dominated by medium onions. Industry suppliers continue to show concern about meeting season-end demand. 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 markets are unchanged. Fancy grade 72-, 88-, and 113-count sizes dominate the crop. Lower temperatures are enhancing color; ethylene gas time is averaging 48 to 72 hours. Sugar levels range from 12 to 13 Brix with a mid- to high acid ratio.

Pears



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

The market is low; volume is high. Quality is very good. MFC Washington Bartlett and D'Anjou Pears are readily available.

Pineapple



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

Prices remain elevated; strong demand will persist through the new year. Stocks are dominated by 6-, 7-, and 8-count fruit; 5-count sizes are extremely tight.



Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF DECEMBER 12, 2021

Potatoes



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

Prices will rise through the new year (all sizes); 70- to 100-count stocks will remain limited through December. 2021 crop yields are down by 15-20% in the Pacific Northwest (Idaho, Oregon, and Washington). Low volume is forecast through the rest of the season (July 2022). U.S. No. 2 stocks are tight.

Raspberries



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

The market is steady. Supplies will remain adequate through the end of the year. Quality is very good: berries are plum and sweet.

Romaine



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

Prices are fairly stable, but will start to rise when this week's cooler weather impedes growth. Quality is very good: growth cracking, mildew pressure, fringe burn, and seeder are occasional issues. MFC Premium Romaine Lettuce is available.

Salads & Blends



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

The market is level; iceberg and romaine volume will tighten when an upcoming cold front hits. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are unchanged; volume is high in the Arizona desert region. Quality is very good: mildew pressure is a sporadic issue. RSS Conventional and Organic Spring Mixes are available.

Squash



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

The market is stable. Supplies are adequate in Florida; zucchini is more plentiful than yellow squash. Mexican production is transitioning between growing regions; expect volume to rise in a few weeks. Quality is very good: wind-related scarring is a potential problem. MFC Zucchini and Yellow Squash are available.

Strawberries



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

The market is stable. Although the Santa Maria, California season is ending, production has begun in Florida and Mexico. New crop harvesting will start in Oxnard, California by late December and increase through January. MFC Strawberries will start shipping out of Florida this week.

Tomatoes



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

Prices are a bit lower than last week; stocks are sufficient on both coasts. Round tomato supplies will increase by mid-January. Grape tomato stocks are on the decline; growers are movin to new regions soon. Quality is very good. MFC Tomatoes are available.

Tree Fruit



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

California nectarines, peaches, and plums are no longer available. Limited quantities of Argentine nectarines are starting to arrive on the West Coast. Chilean peaches will enter the market in late December. Chilean cherries are available now.

Watermelon



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

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



Ready-Set-Serve (RSS).
Table-ready fruits & vegetables.
Backed by 5-Star.



Markon First Crop (MFC).
Whole fresh fruits & vegetables. Backed by 5-Star.



Markon Essentials (ESS).
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Addressing quality and safety at five key points.