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IN EVERY CASE.

MARKON®

Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF DECEMBER 19, 2021 | CANADIAN EDITION

Highlights

- Markon First Crop® (MFC) Premium Green Leaf weights are higher on average than the rest of the industry (23 to 26 pounds compared with 19 to 24 pounds).
- Rain and low desert region temperatures are causing lettuce ice and harvesting delays that may result in quality issues down the road.
- The Mexican and offshore cantaloupe and honeydew melon seasons are underway; supplies are increasing.
- Rain has reduced strawberry volume and driven up prices. Another storm is forecast for next week, further reducing stocks and affecting quality.

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) Sweet baby broccoli can be incorporated into any savory day part. Name a few of your favorite ways to serve this item.

A: I call baby broccoli "the gateway" produce item. It allows you to explore other great produce inspired dishes. One of my favorites is the simplest, oven roasted with a slight hint of charring, garnished with fresh lemon zest, and earthy Parmesan cheese.

- Roast with MFC Mushrooms and serve on top of polenta.
- Bake with MFC Potatoes in a creamy gratin to add color and texture.
- Sear, chop, and add to omelets and scrambled egg dishes.
- Lightly steam until al dente; serve with radishes, baby carrots, and dips such as French onion, hummus, or baba ghanouj.

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.

Lamb Shanks with Mashed Potato and Celeriac

Unctuous lamb pairs divinely with the mellow flavor of mashed potato and the licorice-like bite of celeriac.

Get the full recipe >

Tips for Serving Mushrooms

- Add sautéed mushrooms and chopped chicken to cheese quesadillas.
- Sauté MFC Mushrooms, RSS Peeled Garlic, and ginger with soy sauce, sesame oil, Hoisin sauce, and Thai chili paste; serve on grilled fish.
- Layer roasted MFC Mushrooms, goat cheese, and escarole in a buttered baking dish; top with grated Parmesan and minced MFC Sage; bake until cheese is melted and browned on top.

Browse additional usage tips >

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These miso-glazed MFC Shiitake Mushrooms are little umami bombs that can be served as a side dish or added to fried rice, burgers, grain bowls, and green salads.

Produce Highlights

Broccoli

- Markets are expected to remain at mid-levels over the next 7 to 10 days.
- Cold weather forecast in the desert region this week will slow growth.

Brussels Sprouts

- Prices are active due to strong demand and limited supplies.
- Current size profile is dominated by small and medium; jumbo sizes are extremely limited.

Celery

- The market is rising.
- Prices will remain active until holiday demand subsides and production ramps up in Florida and Yuma, Arizona.

Apples

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
WA, USA	^^^	★★★★★	$$$

Prices are stable. 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	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
PERU/FL	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

The market is up; holiday demand is strong. Stocks are tightening in Mexico and Peru (into Miami, Florida). Expect high prices 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	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

Prices are steady; supplies are sufficient. All sizes are available; 48-, 60-, and 70-count sizes are most abundant. 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	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
MEX	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

The market is slightly lower than last week due to weak demand. The Florida region is producing a lot of jumbo and extra-large sizes. Mexican growers are harvesting in Hermosillo and Obregon. 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, USA	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$
EAST COAST	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$
MEX	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$

Prices are elevated. California desert production will continue for another few weeks despite this week's cool, rainy weather. The main Mexican field-grown season will is forecast to begin December 22. Quality is average: scarring and odd shape are occasional concerns. MFC and ESS Red Bell Peppers are available.

Blackberries

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$
MEX	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

The market is slightly lower than last week. Although the California season is nearly done, Mexican volume is rising. Quality is very good: flavor is intense with very few incidences of red cell.

Blueberries

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
MEX	^^^	★★★★★	$$$
IMPORTS	^^^	★★★★★	$$$

Expect prices to inch down through January. Peruvian fruit is shipping; Chilean supplies will become available 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, USA	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$
CA, USA	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$
MEX/TX	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$

Markets are expected to remain at mid-levels over the next 7 to 10 days. Cold weather forecast in the desert region this week will slow growth. Quality is good: hollow core is a minor issue. MFC Broccoli is available.

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Cantaloupe

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
MEX	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
OFFSHORE	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

The Mexican and offshore seasons are underway. Markets should hold steady; supplies are forecast to remain adequate through the season. Quality is very good.

Cauliflower

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
AZ/CA, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

This week's cold front is slowing growth. Expect prices to climb. Quality is very good: expect bright white color and minimal mechanical damage. ESS Cauliflower is available.

Celery

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
AZ/CA, USA	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$

Prices will remain active until holiday demand subsides and production ramps up in Florida and Yuma, Arizona. Quality is average. MFC Celery is available.

Cucumbers

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
EAST COAST	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
MEX	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

The market is low. Florida stocks have stabilized, but overally production will decrease as the Honduras season begins next week. The Baja, Mexico season will wind down in a few weeks, but the mainland will continue shipping. MFC and ESS Cucumbers are on the market.

Grapes

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$
OFFSHORE	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$

Prices are high. Offshore green grapes have begun shipping; reds will hit the market by the end of the month. Quality is very good. Offshore MFC and ESS Green and Red Seedless Grapes will be available in mid-February.

Green Leaf/Variety Lettuce

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
AZ/CA, USA	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$

Prices are fairly steady at low levels; supplies remain ample though harvesting delays will occur as a result of lettuce ice. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is available.

Honeydew

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
MEX	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
OFFSHORE	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

Prices will inch up over the next week; 5-count supplies will increase over the next two weeks. Quality is very good.

Iceberg Lettuce

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
AZ/CA, USA	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$

The market is fairly steady at lower levels; cold weather will hinder upcoming field weights. MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is on the market.

Lemons

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

Prices are unchanged. Recent rain and lower temperatures are expected to aid growth and deepen color. Domestic stocks are plentiful, particularly 95- to 115-count sizes. Quality is excellent. MFC and ESS Lemons are available.

Limes

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
MEX/TX	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

The market is lower, especially prices for 250- and 230-count sizes; demand is weak. Volume will climb for the next few weeks. Quality is very good. MFC and ESS Limes are available.

Onions

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

Northwest markets will remain elevated through the New Year. Storage supplies are dominated by medium-size onions. Industry suppliers are expressing concern about meeting season-end demand. Markon partners in Texas and California could start harvesting earlier than normal, weather permitting. MFC Red and Yellow Onions are available.

Oranges

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
IMPORTS	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

California Navel prices are level. Fancy grade 72-, 88-, and 113-count sizes dominate the crop. Recent rain and lower temperatures are expected to aid growth and deepen 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, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

Prices are weak; storage stocks remain abundant. 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 the new year. Supplies are dominated by 6-, 7-, and 8-count fruit; 5-count sizes are extremely limited.

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Potatoes

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CO, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
ID, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
OR, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
TX, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
WA, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

Markets for all sizes continue to inch up; 70- to 100-count supplies will remain tight through December. 2021 crop yields are down by 15-20% in the Pacific Northwest (Idaho, Oregon, and Washington). Limited supplies are forecast through the rest of the season (July 2022). U.S. No. 2 stocks are tight.

Raspberries

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
MEX/CA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

Prices are unchanged. Expect sufficient volume through the end of the year. Quality is very good: berries are plum and sweet.

Romaine

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
AZ/CA, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

Markets are fairly steady at moderately elevated levels; cold weather may hinder upcoming field weights. Quality is very good: mildew pressure and fringe burn may increase. MFC Premium Romaine Lettuce is available.

Salads & Blends

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
AZ/CA, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

Prices are stable; iceberg and romaine stocks are tightening due to this week's rainy and low temperatures in the desert region. 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	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$

The market is level, but may increase due to the poor weather and precipitation in the desert growing region. Quality is good: mildew pressure may become more of an issue due to recent rain. RSS Conventional and Organic Spring Mixes are available.

Squash

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
EAST COAST	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
MEX	^^^	★★★★★	$$$

Weak demand is keeping prices low, but if growers are forced to plow under fields, market may climb. Florida production is in full swing; zucchini is more abundant than yellow squash. Mexican harvests have moved south; stocks are ample. Quality ranges from very good to excellent. MFC Zucchini and Yellow Squash are available.

Strawberries

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^^	★★☆☆☆	$$$
FL, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
MEX	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

Rain has reduced volume and driven up prices; the Santa Maria, California season is ending. New crop Oxnard harvesting will be delayed until January. Another storm is forecast for next week, further reducing stocks and affecting quality. Production is underway in Florida and Mexico. MFC Strawberries are available.

Tomatoes

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
FL, USA	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$
MEX	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

Florida round stocks are abundant; markets are easing. Expect tight Mexican supplies until mainland growers begin harvesting in a week or two. Roma volume is adequate; peack production will hit in January. Quality is very good. MFC Tomatoes are available.

Tree Fruit

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$
OFFSHORE	^^^	★★★☆☆	$$$

California nectarines, peaches, and plums are not on the market. Limited quantities of Argentine nectarines are shipping into the West Coast. Chilean peaches will enter the market in a week or two. The Chilean cherry season has started.

Watermelon

Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
MEX	^^^	★★★★☆	$$$

Prices are stable. Mexican supplies are ample; large sizes dominate the crop. Quality is very good: fruit is sweet and juicy.

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

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