

CONFIDENCE
IN EVERY CASE.



Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF JANUARY 23, 2022

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: Leeks are onions' milder cousin. Name a few great ways to menu them.

A: Blanched batons of leeks work great to wrap scallops prior to searing, fried julienne whites elevate your garnish game, and simple seared rondelles of leeks stand out in any dish.

- Add chopped MFC Trimmed Leeks and smoked salmon while scrambling eggs and cream; serve with snipped MFC Chives.
- Steam halved MFC Trimmed Leeks until tender; dress with grainy mustard vinaigrette then top with chopped egg and MFC Chervil.
- Mix chopped MFC Trimmed Leeks, fresh peas, and MFC Mint into your favorite risotto recipe.

*Chef Nick Gonring,
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.



Grilled Leeks with Walnuts and Herbs

For a simple recipe, this dish delivers impressive flavors. Grilling leeks until tender and lightly charred brings out their wonderful sweet and complex taste.

Get the full recipe >

Highlights

- Markon First Crop® (MFC) Premium Iceberg weights are higher on average than the rest of the industry (46 to 48 pounds compared with 38 to 44 pounds).
- Blackberry, blueberry, and raspberry prices are up; volume is low.
- Broccoli prices are climbing. Slow growth in the Arizona/California desert region has resulted in fewer available stocks.

Tips for Serving MFC Trimmed Leeks

- Top flatbreads and pizza with sliced rounds of MFC Trimmed Leeks, black pepper, and blue cheese; bake until crust is crunchy and cheese is bubbly.
- Arrange halved MFC Trimmed Leeks in a baking dish; top with butter, salt, Ready-Set-Serve® (RSS) Peeled Garlic, and Parmesan cheese; roast until tender.
- Sauté chopped MFC Trimmed Leeks, sliced MFC Mushrooms, RSS Diced Yellow Onions, and RSS Peeled Garlic; add chopped MFC Potatoes, MFC Thyme, and vegetable stock; simmer until tender, purée and add touch of cream.



Browse additional usage tips >



Nutty avocado balances the citrusy orange and anise flavors of fennel—great as a stand-alone salad or a base for grilled fish.

Produce Highlights

Grapes

- Imported Lunch Bunch Grapes will begin this week.
- Expect limited stocks and strong prices through January.

Limes

- The market will continue to rise through early February; supplies are tightening.
- The crop is dominated by small sizes; large sizes will become scarce.

Onions

- Expect elevated prices for Northwest MFC Onions through the end of the season in late April.
- Limited quantities of Mexican onions will start entering the U.S. (into South Texas) this week.

Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF JANUARY 23, 2022

Apples



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

The market is steady. Washington MFC Fuji, Gala, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, and Red Delicious Apples are readily available; the storage crop is dominated by 88- to 113-count sizes. Quality is excellent: sugar levels range from 12 to 14 Brix.

Asparagus



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

Mexican prices are elevated, but supplies are starting to increase in Caborca and Mexicali. Peruvian volume is low. 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; 48-count and larger sizes dominate Mexican crops. Prices for small fruit are a bit higher. 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
FL	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

The market has stabilized; demand is moderate. Mexican volume has increased due to improved weather conditions. All sizes are available. Florida growers are moving south. Quality is very good: bruising, decay, scarring, and weak walls are occasional problems in some lots. MFC and Markon Essentials® (ESS) Green Bell Peppers are available.

Bells: Red and Yellow



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

The market has dipped slightly. Mexican supplies are increasing. The East Coast does not produce a significant volume of colored peppers. Quality is good: scarring and odd shape are slight problems. MFC and ESS Red Bell Peppers are available.

Blackberries



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

Prices are high. The Mexican production is steady at lower levels. Quality is very good: green shoulders are occasional problems.

Blueberries



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

Elevated markets persist. Mexican are starting to increase as new crop production ramps up. Import shipments are being delayed at ports and experiencing unloading challenges due to tight labor. Quality is very good: flavor is sweet with pleasantly tangy undertones.

Broccoli



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

Prices are climbing. Slow growth in the Arizona/California desert region has resulted in fewer available stocks. Mexican supplies are sufficient but anticipated demand is strong. Quality is good: pin rot is an occasional problem. MFC Broccoli is available.



Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF JANUARY 23, 2022

Cantaloupe



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

The market is steady; volume is average. Quality is very good: sugar levels will rise as the offshore season progresses.

Cauliflower



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

Prices are elevated; stocks are tight. ESS Cauliflower is limited; packer label will be substituted as needed.

Celery



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

The market is stable despite strong demand. Quality is very good: stalks are straight and flavor is zesty. MFC Celery is available.

Cucumbers



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

Prices are steady to slightly higher. Mexican stocks are sufficient in Sonora and Sinaloa. Honduran imports are on the market (into South Florida); port delays are affecting availability due to labor and transportation shortages. MFC and ESS Cucumbers are available.

Grapes



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

Expect elevated markets and tight supplies through January. Importers continue to battle shipping delays from Chile and Peru. Imported MFC and ESS Green and Red Seedless Grapes are being shipped; imported Lunch Bunch Grapes will begin this week.

Green Leaf/Variety Lettuce



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

Prices are stable. Recent rain and cold have caused varying levels of epidermal blister and peeling in some lots. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is available.

Honeydew



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

Markets are up; crops are dominated by 6- and 8-count fruit. Quality is very good: sugar levels are starting to inch up.

Iceberg Lettuce



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

Prices are fairly level. Recent cold weather and rainy conditions have caused persistent epidermal blistering and peeling. MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is sporadic; Markon Best Available® (MBA) is being substituted as needed.

Lemons



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

The market has ticked up a bit. Domestic stocks are dominated by 115-, 140-, and 165-count sizes; 200- and 230-count supplies are tight. MFC and ESS Lemons are available.

Limes



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

The market will continue to rise through early February; prices are at an all-time high. The crop is dominated by small sizes; large sizes will become scarce. MFC and ESS Limes are sporadic; packer label substituted when necessary.

Onions



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

Expect elevated markets for Northwest MFC Onions through the end of the season in late April. Dry scale and translucent layers will become challenges as the end of the season approaches. Limited quantities of Mexican onions will start entering the U.S. (into South Texas) this week. With the Northwest markets at all-time highs, Mexican onion prices are expected to follow suit. Texas-grown onions will enter the market in early March. California onions are estimated to start shipping from the Imperial Valley in late April.

Oranges



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

Prices for 113- and 138-count California Navels are inching up; 72- and 88-count sizes dominate stocks. Ethylene gas time is between 24 to 48 hours. Sugar levels range from 10 to 13 Brix with a mid- to high acid ratio.

Pears



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

MFC Washington Bartlett Pears will be depleted in late January; MFC D'Anjou Pears are readily available. The California Bartlett season will begin in June.

Pineapple



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

Expect high prices through late January; supply levels are diminishing, particularly five-count sizes. Quality is very good.



Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF JANUARY 23, 2022

Potatoes



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

Idaho Burbank and Norkotah prices are starting to climb as suppliers start to extend storage supplies. The crop is dominated by large sizes (40- to 70-count potatoes); smaller sizes (80- to 100-count supplies) are adequate. Norkotahs should remain available into early April; once Norkotah stocks are depleted, Burbanks will be the sole variety for the rest of the season. MFC Burbank and Norkotah Potatoes are available.

Raspberries



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

The market is up; supplies are tight. Quality is very good: broken fruit is an occasional issue caused by temperature fluctuations over the last month.

Romaine



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

Prices are stable. Recent rain and cold have caused varying levels of epidermal blister and peeling in some lots. MFC Premium Romaine Lettuce is sporadic; MBA is being substituted as needed.

Salads & Blends



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

The market is level; iceberg and romaine supplies are sufficient. Markon's Quality Assurance team continues to monitor quality and processing for the best packs.

Spring Mix



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

Prices are level. Quality is good: mildew pressure and yellowing are minor issues. RSS Conventional and Organic Spring Mixes are available.

Squash



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

The market remains elevated. Volume is low but forecast to increase next week in Mexico. Scuffing and scarring are potential quality issues. MFC Zucchini and Yellow Squash are available.

Strawberries



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

High prices persist. California production is starting to increase. Quality is improving. Supplies are sufficient in Florida and Mexico. MFC Strawberries are available.

Tomatoes



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

The market is fairly steady. Production is increasing in Florida and Mexico (in Culiacan and Guaymas). Size is dominated by large fruit. Grape tomato demand is weak, keeping markets level. Overall quality is very good. MFC Tomatoes are available.

Tree Fruit



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

Chilean white and yellow nectarines are on the market. Yellow peaches are also being shipped; white peaches will begin next week. Imported plums will enter the market in early February. Chilean cherries are available.

Watermelon



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

The market is elevated; Mexican stocks are limited. Large sizes dominate availability. Quality is very good: fruit is sweet and juicy.



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