

CONFIDENCE
IN EVERY CASE.



Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF JANUARY 30, 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: Grapes are a healthy snack for boxed lunches and cheese platters. What ways do you suggest serving them in cooked dishes?

A: Grapes are highly versatile and can be woven through menus beyond their familiar sweet narrative. Braise them in balsamic vinegar and honey to make an agrodolce for your next pork chop, pickle them to bring fresh acidity to global handhelds, or even roast them with olive oil and verjus to accompany grilled fish.

- Sauté Ready-Set-Serve® (RSS) Stuffing Starter and fresh thyme; add wild rice and vegetable stock; simmer until rice is tender; stir in roasted MFC Red Seedless Grapes, walnuts, and the zest of MFC Oranges
- Roast MFC Green Seedless Grapes until tender and serve with gooey cheeses like Brie or stir into dips like hummus.
- Sauté RSS Diced Onions, MFC Red Seedless Grapes, and Italian parsley; serve over seared sea scallops.

*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.



Taco Salad

This updated version of a family favorite is packed with fresh, healthy produce.

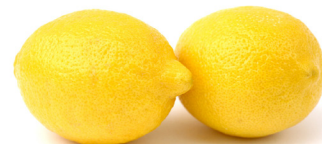
Get the full recipe >

Highlights

- Markon First Crop® (MFC) Premium Romaine weights are higher on average than the rest of the industry (36 to 39 pounds compared with 31 to 37 pounds).
- Strawberry prices are easing; supplies are ramping up in all regions.
- Broccoli markets are decreasing due to warmer weather in the Arizona and California desert growing regions.
- Brussels sprouts prices are easing as supplies increase in Mexicali, Mexico.

Tips for Serving Lemons

- Marinate tuna cubes in olive oil, MFC Chervil, and black pepper; thread on skewers with quartered MFC Lemons.
- Roast red snapper with marinated artichoke hearts, MFC Potatoes, slices of MFC Lemons, and MFC Tarragon.
- Stir in tahini, sesame seeds, and the juice and zest of MFC Lemons; serve in pita with falafel.



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Give classic flapjacks a bit of flair with bright pink beet juice. The flavor is a bit earthier but remains sweet. Top with vibrant fruits and edible flowers for a crowd-pleasing presentation.

Produce Highlights

Cauliflower

- Prices will ease over the next 7 to 10 days.
- Warm weather will increase yields in the Arizona and California desert regions.

Cilantro

- The market is easing.
- Yields are rebounding following an exceptionally wet December in Oxnard, California; approximately 10" of rainfall was recorded for the month.

Oranges

- Strong demand is driving up prices.
- Fruit is dominated by large sizes (56- to 88-count packs); smaller sizes are tightening.

Apples



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

Prices are unchanged. Washington MFC Fuji, Gala, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, and Red Delicious Apples are on the market; 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The Mexican market has eased; supplies have increased in Caborca and Mexicali. Peruvian stocks are steady. 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 fairly stable; 48-count and larger sizes dominate Mexican crops. The market for small fruit is slightly 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Mexican prices have fallen; volume is high. Large sizes dominate Florida supplies. Cold weather is predicted in Florida which may tighten stocks, but high temperatures are forecast in Mexico, so overall availability should hold steady. Quality is very good: no major problems are being reported. MFC and Markon Essentials® (ESS) Green Bell Peppers are available.

Bells: Red and Yellow



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

Prices have eased. Mexican stocks continue to increase. The East Coast does not produce a significant volume of colored peppers. Quality is good: no major issues are being reported. MFC and ESS Red Bell Peppers are available.

Blackberries



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

The market is stabilizing. Mexican supplies are sufficient for demand. Quality is very good: green shoulders are occasional problems.

Blueberries



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

Prices are high but should begin easing as Mexican supplies are starting to increase. Imported fruit is being delayed at ports and experiencing unloading challenges due to labor shortages. Quality is very good: flavor is sweet with pleasantly tangy undertones.

Broccoli



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

Markets are decreasing due to warmer weather in the Arizona and California desert growing regions. Fairly steady prices are anticipated over the next two weeks. Quality is good: pin rot is an occasional problem. MFC Broccoli is available.



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Cantaloupe



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

Prices are unchanged; supplies are sufficient. Quality is very good; sugar levels are rising.

Cauliflower



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

Markets will ease over the next 7 to 10 days. Warm weather will increase yields in the Arizona and California desert regions. ESS Cauliflower is available.

Celery



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

Expect steady to slightly lower prices over the next few weeks. Quality is very good: some Oxnard lots are being affected by disease pressure. MFC Celery is available.

Cucumbers



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

The market has dipped a bit; demand is moderate. Mexican supplies are steady in Sonora and Sinaloa; growing conditions are ideal. Honduran imports are on the market (into South Florida); port congestion has improved. Florida growers will start domestic harvesting in March. MFC and ESS Cucumbers are available.

Grapes



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

Prices will remain high for another week or two. Importers continue to battle shipping delays from Chile and Peru. Imported MFC and ESS Green and Red Seedless Grapes as well as Lunch Bunch Grapes are now on the market.

Green Leaf/Variety Lettuce



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

The market is weak; supplies are adequate. Quality is very good: mildew damage is in some lots but is being trimmed at harvest. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is available.

Honeydew



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

Prices are elevated; stocks are dominated by 6- and 8-count sizes. Quality is very good: sugar levels are increasing.

Iceberg Lettuce



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

The market is steady. Quality is very good: wind and freeze damage are being trimmed from outer leaves at harvest. MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is available.

Lemons



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

Prices are elevated. Domestic supplies are dominated by 115-, 140-, and 165-count sizes; 200- and 230-count stocks are limited. MFC and ESS Lemons are available.

Limes



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

Expect high prices through early February. Stocks are dominated by small sizes; large sizes are tighter. MFC and ESS Limes are sporadic; packer label substituted when necessary.

Onions



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

Prices will remain elevated through the end of the Northwest MFC Onion season in late April. Dry scale and translucent layers are becoming challenges. Mexican onions have begun entering the U.S. (into South Texas); markets are high as rain has affected production. Texas-grown onions will become available in early March. California onions are estimated to start shipping from the Imperial Valley in late April.

Oranges



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

Strong demand is driving up markets. Fruit is dominated by large sizes (56- to 88-count packs); smaller sizes (113- and 138-count) are tightening. Ethylene gas time is between 24 to 48 hours. Sugar levels range from 10 to 13 Brix with a mid- to high acid ratio. MFC Navel Oranges are available.

Pears



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

Prices are low; stocks are ample. The Washington Bartlett Pear season has ended. MFC D'Anjou Pears are readily available; 80- to 110-count supplies dominate the crop. The California Bartlett season will start shipping in June.

Pineapple



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

Elevated prices persist; supplies are tight, especially five-count sizes. Quality is very good: fruit is sweet and tangy.



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Potatoes



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

Idaho Burbank and Norkotah markets are rising as suppliers extend storage supplies. Stocks are dominated by large sizes (40- to 70-count potatoes); smaller sizes (80- to 100-count supplies) are sufficient. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are stabilizing; stocks are meeting demand. Quality is very good: broken fruit is a sporadic problem.

Romaine



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

Prices are inching down; supplies are increasing while demand is weak. Quality is very good: fringe burn and light epidermal blistering/peeling are issues in some lots. MFC Premium Romaine Lettuce is available.

Salads & Blends



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

Prices are steady; iceberg/romaine volume is meeting demand. Markon's Quality Assurance team continues to monitor quality and processing for the best packs.

Spring Mix



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

The market is unchanged; volume is high. Quality is good: mildew pressure is a sporadic problem. RSS Conventional and Organic Spring Mixes are available.

Squash



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

Prices have stabilized; demand is moderate. Florida supplies will remain tight through early March when production starts on spring crops. Mexican stocks are increasing this week, especially zucchini. Quality ranges from good to very good. MFC Zucchini and Yellow Squash are available.

Strawberries



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

Markets are easing; supplies are ramping up in all regions. Santa Maria, California production will pick up weekly; berry size is large. Stocks are steady in Florida and Mexico. Quality is very good. MFC Strawberries are available.

Tomatoes



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

Mexico tomato production is ramping up due to favorable weather, while Florida growers are facing near-freezing temperatures. Expect steady round, Roma, and cherry tomato prices over the next week. Grape tomatoes remain a bargain. Overall quality is very good. MFC Tomatoes are available.

Tree Fruit



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

The market is steady; stocks are sufficient. Chilean white and yellow nectarines and peaches are being shipped. Imported plums will enter the market in early February. Chilean cherries are available.

Watermelon



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

Prices are high; Mexican supplies are tight. Large sizes dominate current crops. Quality is very good: fruit is sweet and juicy.



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