

CONFIDENCE
IN EVERY CASE.



Highlights

- Markon First Crop® (MFC) Premium Romaine weights are higher on average than the rest of the industry (34 to 40 pounds compared with 30 to 37 pounds).
- Broccoli and cauliflower prices continue to rise due to persistent cold weather in the Arizona and California desert growing regions.
- Idaho Burbank and Norkotah markets are expected to climb in late January as suppliers will begin to extend storage volume.

Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF JANUARY 16, 2022 | CANADIAN EDITION

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) Urban Blend combines baby red chard, wild arugula, and baby kale. What are some of the myriad ways you suggest using this healthy, delicious salad mix?

A: Baby greens provide a clean flavor with a balanced texture. Use them to quickly upscale sandwiches by replacing traditional lettuces, top flatbreads to gain visual appeal, or even fold into an omelet for a bit of health and intrigue.

- RSS Urban Blend makes a hearty salad when served raw with toppings and dressings like avocados, sliced fruit, grated beets, garbanzo beans, and hard cheeses.
- Sauté or stir-fry this mix on its own or with ingredients like garlic, ginger, mushrooms, and onions for a delicious side dish.
- Make a green smoothie with this blend—add items like avocados, bananas, pineapple, turmeric, ginger, and coconut water.

*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.



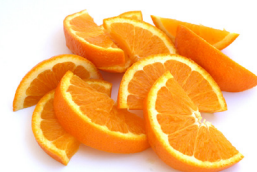
Winter Barley Salad

This hearty grain salad gets umami from mushrooms, sweetness from Kabocha squash, and bright notes from lemon. Serve warm for cold months or chilled when it starts to heat up.

Get the full recipe >

Tips for Serving Oranges

- Mix couscous with RSS Orange Segments, RSS Sliced Red Onions, MFC Mint leaves, and sliced green olives; drizzle with olive oil and serve with grilled lamb.
- Toss peeled and chopped MFC Oranges, RSS Baby Spinach, and toasted pecans; serve with gorgonzola dressing.
- Purée grilled MFC Red Bell Peppers with chopped MFC Carrots and MFC Oranges; heat until soup warms, then whisk in cream.



Browse additional usage tips >

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Mild, yet meaty, halibut gets a flavor boost from French-inspired caper sauce and RSS Rio Citrus Salad.

Produce Highlights

Bell Peppers

- Green bell pepper prices have increased due to strong demand.
- Red bell markets are expected to slightly decrease over the next one to two weeks.

Cucumbers

- The market is up slightly.
- The main East Coast supply has transitioned to Honduran import programs.

Grapes

- Expect limited stocks and strong prices through January.
- Importers continue to battle shipping delays from Chile and Peru.

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Apples



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

Prices are level. Washington MFC Fuji, Gala, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, and Red Delicious Apples remain readily available; the 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 markets are up, but rising volume in Caborca and Mexicali will help supply meet demand. Peruvian supplies are tight. 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 stocks. Markets for small fruit are 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, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Markets are climbing; demand is strong. Mexican supplies have tightened due to recent cool/rainy weather. All sizes are available, but extra-large peppers are snug. Florida growers are transitioning to newer winter fields in the southern region. Quality is very good: bruising, decay, scarring, and weak walls are potential issues in some lots. MFC and Markon Essentials® (ESS) Green Bell Peppers are on the market.

Bells: Red and Yellow



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

Prices are expected to slightly decrease over the next one to two weeks. Mexican stocks are consistent; volume is set to increase. The East Coast does not produce a significant volume of colored peppers. Quality is good: scarring and odd shape are minor issues. MFC and ESS Red Bell Peppers are available.

Blackberries



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

The market is up. The Mexican season is winding down; volume is falling. Quality is very good: green shoulders are minor issues.

Blueberries



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

Prices are elevated. Mexican stocks are limited but starting to increase as new crop production ramps up. Import shipments are experiencing vessel delays and unloading challenges. Quality is very good: flavor is sweet with pleasantly tangy undertones.

Broccoli



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

Markets continue to rise. Cool weather has slowed plant maturity in the Arizona/California desert region, resulting in fewer available supplies over the next two weeks. Mexican stocks are adequate but anticipated to tighten as demand shifts. Quality is good: pin rot is affecting some lots. MFC Broccoli is available.



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Cantaloupe



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

Prices are unchanged; supplies are adequate. Quality is very good: sugar levels will rise as the offshore season progresses.

Cauliflower



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

The market will continue to climb for the next two weeks; low temperatures are reducing volume. ESS Cauliflower is limited; packer label will be substituted as necessary.

Celery



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

Although strong demand persists, prices are level. Quality is very good: stalks are straight and flavor is zesty. MFC Celery is available.

Cucumbers



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

The market is up slightly. Mexican production is steady in Sonora and Sinaloa. East Coast supplies have transitioned to Honduran imports. South Florida port delays are affecting availability due to labor and transportation shortages. MFC and ESS Cucumbers are on the market.

Grapes



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

Expect limited stocks and strong prices through January; supplies are tightening. California stocks have been depleted. Importers continue to battle shipping delays from Chile and Peru. Imported MFC and ESS Green and Red Seedless Grapes are being shipped; offshore MFC Lunch Bunch Grapes will start later this week.

Green Leaf/Variety Lettuce



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

The market is fairly level. Fields are recovering from weeks of rain and icy conditions. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is available.

Honeydew



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

Prices are high; stocks 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, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

The market is steady to slightly higher. Crops are recovering from recent cold weather and rainy conditions. Quality is good: epidermal blistering and peeling are potential issues. MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is sporadic; Markon Best Available® (MBA) is being substituted as needed.

Lemons



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

Prices have stabilized. Domestic stocks 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	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

The market is high; expect low volume for the next two months. Supplies are dominated by 230- and 250-count fruit. Quality is good: scarring and styler are potential issues. MFC and ESS Limes are sporadic; packer label substituted when needed.

Onions



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

High prices persist. Medium sizes dominate storage volume. Quality is excellent: skins are cured and papery and inner flesh is juicy with zesty flavor. MFC Red and Yellow Onions are available.

Oranges



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

California Navel markets have stabilized; domestic volume has returned to normal levels. Fancy grade 72-, 88-, and 113-count sizes dominate supplies. 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, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are unchanged; storage stocks are abundant. Quality is very good: texture is firm and flavor is mildly sweet. MFC Washington Bartlett and D'Anjou Pears are available.

Pineapple



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

Markets will continue to rise through late January; supply levels are diminishing, particularly five-count sizes. Quality is very good: fruit is sweet, yet tangy and juicy.



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Potatoes



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

Idaho Burbank and Norkotah markets are expected to climb in late January as suppliers will begin to extend storage volume. Size is 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, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
MEX/CA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are elevated; stocks are limited. Quality is very good: broken fruit is minor issue caused by temperature fluctuations over the last month.

Romaine



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

The market is level; supplies are adequate. Quality is improving, but fringe burn, epidermal blistering and peeling, and mildew pressure are being found in some lots. MFC Premium Romaine Lettuce is sporadic; MBA is being substituted as necessary.

Salads & Blends



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

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

Spring Mix



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

The market is steady. Quality is good: mildew pressure and yellowing are occasional problems. RSS Conventional and Organic Spring Mixes are available.

Squash



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

Strong demand has pushed up markets. Rain and cooler weather has slowed growth in Florida. Scuffing and scarring are potential quality problems in yellow squash. Mexican supplies will remain tight for two to three weeks, but quality is holding up. MFC Zucchini and Yellow Squash are available.

Strawberries



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

The market is up. West Coast growers continue to catch up after several weeks of rain and cold weather, but harvesting has begun to increase. Stocks are adequate in Florida and Mexico. MFC Strawberries are available.

Tomatoes



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

Florida volume has dipped due to rain and cooler weather, but supplies should increase moving forward. Mexican production in Culiacan and Guaymas is underway; stocks are becoming more plentiful. Size is dominated by large fruit. Weak demand for grape tomatoes is holding prices steady. Quality is very good. MFC Tomatoes are available.

Tree Fruit



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

Chilean white and yellow nectarines are available. Yellow peaches will start shipping later this week, with white peaches beginning next week. Imported plums will enter the market in early February. Chilean cherries are available.

Watermelon



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

High prices persist; Mexican supplies are tight. Large sizes dominate availability. Quality is very good: fruit is sweet and juicy.



READY-SET-SERVE
by MARKON

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



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

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