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IN EVERY CASE.



Highlights

- Markon First Crop® (MFC) Premium Green Leaf Lettuce weights are higher on average than the rest of the industry (22 to 25 pounds compared with 19 to 24 pounds).
- Last week's high temperatures in the Arizona/California desert region promoted growth and increased head weights. Although the weather has returned to normal levels, Markon Inspectors are monitoring all commodities and value-added items for heat-related concerns.
- The Mexican avocado market is elevated due to recent bans on imported product from Michoacan; supplies are extremely limited. California production is ramping up.

Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 20, 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: Although kale's heyday was years ago, this item continues to outperform most other salad greens. What's your favorite kale salad combo?

A: BBQ has a stronghold on Texas for smoked meats, but sides are just as important to distinguish your plates. Kale, along with RSS Shredded Cabbage, toasted pumpkin seeds, dried cranberries, and orange-honey-apple cider mayonnaise dressing satisfies any BBQ palates.

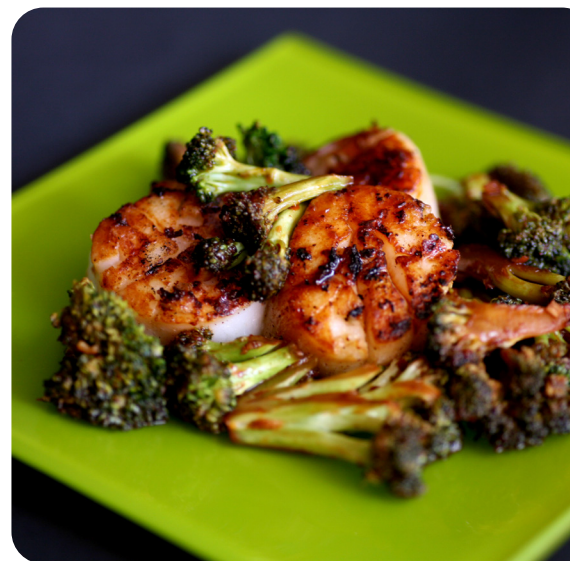
- Ready-Set-Serve® (RSS) Kale Color Crunch makes a flavorful taco and tostada topper.
- RSS Shredded Kale makes a delicious salad when tossed with ingredients such as shaved MFC Granny Smith Apples, crunchy nuts, blue cheese crumbles, and bright, citrusy vinaigrette.
- Add RSS Kale to dishes as varied as quesadillas, stuffed mushrooms, pulled-pork sandwiches, and vegetable soups.

*Chef Chris Cukjati,
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.



Blistered Broccoli and Seared Scallops

The global flavors of lemongrass and ginger add contrast to this entrée of seared scallops and blistered broccoli.

Get the full recipe >

Tips for Serving Broccoli

- Broccoli and lemons are great partners—accent seared RSS Broccoli Florets with a squeeze of MFC Lemon juice and zest.
- The crunch and plate coverage of raw RSS Broccoli Florets make them ideal in rice bowls, side salads, and noodle dishes.
- Sliced and charred MFC Broccoli Crowns can be paired with global sauces like Mexican mole, Spanish romesco, and Asian chili crisp for a hearty vegetarian entrée.



Browse additional usage tips >

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A chilled option to oatmeal and other warm breakfast cereals, this chia pudding is piled high with fruits, nuts, and seeds.

Produce Highlights

Berries

- Blue-, black-, and raspberry stocks remain tight.
- Blueberry volume will remain the most challenged over the next two weeks.

Cucumbers

- Prices are active.
- Growers in Mexico are transitioning to new fields, reducing overall volume.

Limes

- The market is poised to remain elevated through March.
- Limited supplies of offshore limes are beginning to enter the market.

Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 20, 2022

Apples



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

Prices are low. Washington MFC Fuji, Gala, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, and Red Delicious Apples are 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is climbing. Mexican yields have fallen significantly in the Caborca region. Peruvian volume will remain low through March. Expect inconsistent supply levels and elevated markets for the next three to four weeks at minimum. Quality is very good: spear and tips are firm, color is bright, and flavor is grassy. MFC Asparagus is available.

Avocados



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

The Mexican market is elevated due to recent bans on imported product from Michoacan; supplies are extremely limited. California production is ramping up; demand is very strong. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are stable. Florida stocks are meeting demand despite recent freezing temperatures. This week's warm weather is increasing yields. Mexican supplies are plentiful in the Sinaloa region. All sizes and grades are available. Quality is very good but the size profile is small. MFC and Markon Essentials® (ESS) Green Bell Peppers are on the market.

Bells: Red and Yellow



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

The market is slightly higher. Mexican volume has dipped in Culiacan, tightening supplies for the next two weeks. This week's ideal weather will aid growth. The East Coast does not produce a significant volume of colored peppers. Quality is average. MFC and ESS Red Bell Peppers are available.

Blackberries



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

Prices are forecast to rise over the next two weeks. Mexican production is past its peak; supplies are tightening. Quality is very good: berries are plump and juicy with deep purple color.

Blueberries



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

The market will climb through the end of the month. Mexican volume has dipped; stocks will increase once spring harvesting increases. Delays at ports and unloading challenges persist. Quality is very good: flavor is sweet with pleasantly tangy undertones.

Broccoli



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

Prices are steady; supplies are adequate. High temperatures have increased yields in the Arizona and California desert growing regions. Mexican stocks are abundant. Quality is very good: pin rot is an occasional problem. MFC Broccoli is available.



Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 20, 2022

Cantaloupe



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

The market is level; Mexican and offshore stocks are adequate. Quality is very good: sugar levels range between 10 and 14 Brix.

Cauliflower



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

Warm weather has increased supplies; prices have dipped. Quality is very good: color is snowy white and texture is firm. ESS Cauliflower is available.

Celery



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

The market is slightly higher due to strong demand. Quality is very good: some Oxnard lots are being affected by disease pressure, but demand is being met. MFC Celery is available.

Cucumbers



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

Prices are active. Growers in Mexico are transitioning to new fields, reducing overall volume. The offshore Honduran import program is being affected by port congestion and labor shortages. Florida production is expected to start in mid-March. MFC and ESS Cucumbers are available.

Grapes



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

The market is high. Imports from Chile and Peru are tight. Quality is average. MFC and ESS Green and Red Seedless Grapes as well as Lunch Bunch Grapes are on the market.

Green Leaf/Variety Lettuce



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

Prices are low; stocks are ample. Quality is excellent. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is available.

Honeydew



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

The market is steady; supplies are dominated by 6- and 8-count sizes. Quality is very good: sugar levels range between 10 and 14 Brix.

Iceberg Lettuce



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

Prices are weak; volume is high. Quality is very good: wind and freeze damage as well as growth cracking are issues being trimmed at the field level. MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is sporadic; Markon Best Available is being packed as needed in cases with low weights.

Lemons



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

Prices are up. Domestic crops are dominated by 115-, 140-, and 165-count sizes; 200- and 230-count fruit is tight. MFC and ESS Lemons are available.

Limes



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

The market will remain elevated through March. Mexican yields are approaching a seasonal low. Offshore fruit will become more prevalent in the coming weeks. MFC and ESS Limes are sporadic; packer label substituted when needed.

Onions



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

Prices are high. Northwest suppliers continue to increase markets to extend storage supplies. Quality is sporadic in remaining storage onions; occasional internal defects include translucency, dryness, and watery scale. Mexican onions (crossing into South Texas) are on the market. Texas-grown onions will become available in early March. California onions will begin shipping from the Imperial Valley in mid-April. The New Mexico season will start in early June. MFC Red and Yellow Onions are available.

Oranges



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

The market is elevated. The Navel crop is dominated by large sizes (56- to 88-count packs); smaller sizes (113- and 138-count) are limited. Sugar levels range from 10 to 13 Brix. MFC Navel Oranges are available.

Pears



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

Prices are low; storage supplies are plentiful. MFC D'Anjou Pears are available; 80- to 110-count stocks dominate the crop. The California Bartlett season will start shipping in June.

Pineapple



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

The market is high; stocks are limited, especially five-count sizes. Quality is very good: fruit is sweet and tangy.



Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 20, 2022

Potatoes



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

Idaho Burbank and Norkotah prices continue to climb as suppliers extend storage volume. The remaining crop is dominated by large sizes (40- and 50-count potatoes); smaller sizes (80- to 100-count supplies) are sufficient. Norkotahs are forecast to remain available into early April; once Norkotah stocks are depleted, Burbanks will be shipped through the rest of the season. MFC Burbank and Norkotah Potatoes are on the market.

Raspberries



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

The market will inch up through the end of the month; stocks are tightening. Quality is very good: berries are plump, deep red, and tangy sweet.

Romaine



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

Prices are rising; demand is strong. Expect tightening supplies for the next two to three weeks due to inconsistent weather. Quality is very good: fringe burn and light epidermal blistering/peeling are sporadic issues being trimmed in the fields. MFC Premium Romaine Lettuce is available.

Salads & Blends



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

The market is level; 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	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are unchanged; stocks are plentiful. Quality is very good: mildew pressure is a minor issue in some lots. RSS Conventional and Organic Spring Mixes are available.

Squash



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

Mexican supplies (crossing into Nogales, Arizona) are increasing, easing markets. Medium sizes are ample. The harvesting transition to the northern state of Sonora will occur in mid-March. Florida production is sporadic due to recent cold weather. Yellow squash is limited. MFC Zucchini and Yellow Squash are available.

Strawberries



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

Prices are stable. California volume is rising. Freezing weather stunted growth in Florida fruit, but crops are starting to rebound as temperatures return to normal. Mexican supplies are meeting demand. Quality is very good: size is increasing. MFC Strawberries are available.

Tomatoes



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

The market is steady. Florida production is light but consistent. The recent frost caused minimal quality damage. Volume is high in Mexico. The Roma and vine ripe seasons will run through this month. Grape tomatoes have tightened, but are still meeting demand. MFC Tomatoes are available.

Tree Fruit



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

Prices are stable. Chilean white and yellow nectarine and peach supplies are sufficient. Imported plums are increasing. Quality is very good. Sugar levels are inching up.

Watermelon



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

The market is steady. Mexican stocks are adequate; demand is weak. Large sizes dominate current crops. Quality is very good: sugar levels range between 10 and 14 Brix.



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