

CONFIDENCE
IN EVERY CASE.



Highlights

- Markon First Crop® (MFC) Premium Romaine Lettuce weights are higher on average than the rest of the industry (36 to 39 pounds compared with 31 to 37 pounds).
- Although the Florida growing region avoided a major freeze event last week, growers have observed some signs of plant bloom drop throughout a number of commodities (especially tomatoes, bell peppers, eggplant, green beans, and squash) which may impact volume for the end of February.
- Lime prices are forecast to climb through March. Oil spotting is an occasional concern being culled during packing. MFC and ESS Limes are sporadic; packer label substituted when needed.

Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 13, 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) Cauli Creations can be used in myriad ways. What are some of your favorites?

A: With pizza all the rage still, these cauli pieces work nicely on a vegetarian pizza with MFC Cremini Mushrooms, RSS Peeled Garlic roasted in olive oil, roasted MFC Red Bell Peppers, briny pitted green olives, and white truffle oil on a Ricotta-Mozzarella base. Delicious any time of year.

- Toss with quinoa, Brussels sprouts quarters, pepitas, and creamy tahini dressing.
- Excellent in veggie burgers and omelets.
- Ideal as a complex carb substitute for white rice in a variety of recipes such as fried rice, grits, mac-n-cheese, and mashed potatoes.
- Mix with egg, cheese, and bread-crumbs, then deep fry in tater-tot shapes.

*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.



Cauliflower Tacos with Mole Sauce

A delicious vegetarian option that packs the earthy flavors of cumin-roasted cauliflower, pickled red onions, and Oaxacan mole sauce.

Get the full recipe >

Tips for Serving Cauliflower

- Chop and toss with olive oil, salt, and pepper; roast until tender; top with shaved Parmesan cheese.
- Slice and sear cauliflower "steaks;" serve with sauteed mushrooms, onions, and garlic.
- Skip the empty calories of flour and make pizza dough from RSS Cauli Creations—roll and bake with ingredients like mushrooms, onions, and tomatoes.

Browse additional usage tips >





Anise-flavored fennel, earthy beets, and the umami of Parmesan cheese all accent this RSS Heritage Blend salad.

Produce Highlights

Carrots

- The market has risen. California supplies continue to tighten as production transitions from the San Joaquin Valley to the Imperial Valley.
- Jumbo sizes are extremely limited.

Green Beans

- Prices are climbing due to unfavorable weather and strong demand.
- Yields are down in Florida and Mexico.

Squash

- Zucchini and yellow squash markets remain elevated due to weather conditions.
- Some bloom drop is expected and will negatively affect yields over the next two to three weeks.

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Apples



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

The market is 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 prices are low; supplies have increased in Caborca. Peruvian stocks are sufficient. 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
MEX	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are stable; 48-count and larger sizes dominate Mexican crops. Small fruit less 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
FL, USA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market remains steady despite East Coast weather. Florida experienced freezing temperatures, causing bloom drop that will decrease yields in some lots. Mexican supplies are sufficient. Quality ranges from good to very good: frost damage is a potential problem in Florida. MFC and ESS Green Bell Peppers are available.

Bells: Red and Yellow



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

Prices have jumped. Mexican stocks are tightening; demand is strong. All sizes are available. The East Coast does not produce a significant volume of colored peppers; supplies will further decrease due to recent cold weather. Quality is good. MFC and ESS Red Bell Peppers are available.

Blackberries



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

The market is steady. Mexican supplies are meeting demand. Quality is very good: berries are plump and juicy with deep purple color.

Blueberries



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

Prices are starting to inch down; Mexican volume is rising. Although delays at ports and unloading challenges are improving, imports remain tight. Quality is very good: flavor is sweet with pleasantly tangy undertones.

Broccoli



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

The market is low. Ideal weather in the Arizona and California desert growing regions continues to aid growth and increase volume. Mexican supplies are ample. Quality is good: pin rot is a minor issue. MFC Broccoli is available.



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Cantaloupe



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

Prices are steady; Mexican and offshore melons are sufficient. Quality is very good: sugar levels are rising.

Cauliflower



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

The market is expected to inch up, then fall back next week when warmer weather is forecast. Quality is very good: small size is an issue in some lots. ESS Cauliflower is available.

Celery



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

Prices are a bit lower. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is stable. Mexican supplies are adequate in Sonora and Sinaloa; warm, sunny weather is increasing yields. Honduran imports will ship through mid-March; port problems are easing. Florida growers will start domestic harvesting in March. MFC and ESS Cucumbers are available.

Grapes



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

Prices remain high. Imports from Chile and Peru are limited. Imported 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, USA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is weak; supplies are plentiful. Quality is very good: ice and mildew damage are issues being trimmed at harvest. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is available.

Honeydew



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

Prices have stabilized; available 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, USA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is low; supplies are abundant. Recent low temperatures have caused lettuce ice, but quality remains very good; damage is being trimmed from outer leaves at the field level. MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is available.

Lemons



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

The market is high. Domestic stocks are dominated by 115-, 140-, and 165-count sizes; 200- and 230-count fruit is limited. MFC and ESS Lemons are available.

Limes



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

Prices are forecast to climb through March; demand is strong. Oil spotting is an occasional concern being culled during packing. MFC and ESS Limes are sporadic; packer label substituted when needed.

Onions



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

Elevated markets persist as Northwest suppliers continue to increase markets to extend storage stocks. Mexican onions (crossing into South Texas) are available; rain has affected packing schedules. Quality is sporadic in remaining storage onions; occasional internal defects include translucency, dryness, and watery scale. 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, USA	^^^	*****	\$\$\$
IMPORTS	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

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

Pears



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

The market is weak; stocks are ample. MFC D'Anjou Pears are available; 80- to 110-count stocks dominate the crop. The California Bartlett season will begin 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, USA	^ ^ ^	*****	\$\$\$
ID, USA	^ ^ ^	*****	\$\$\$
OR, USA	^ ^ ^	*****	\$\$\$
TX, USA	^ ^ ^	*****	\$\$\$
WA, USA	^ ^ ^	*****	\$\$\$

Idaho Burbank and Norkotah markets are up as suppliers extend storage supplies. The remaining crop is dominated by large sizes (40- and 50-count potatoes); smaller sizes (80- to 100-count supplies) are adequate. Norkotahs are expected to remain on the market into early April; once Norkotah supplies are depleted, Burbanks will be the sole variety through the rest of the season. MFC Burbank and Norkotah Potatoes are available.

Raspberries



Region	Supplies	Quality	Price
CA, USA	^ ^ ^	*****	\$\$\$
MEX/CA	^ ^ ^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are stable; stocks are adequate. Quality is very good: berries are plump, deep red, and tangy sweet.

Romaine



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

Prices are low; volume is high. Quality is very good: fringe burn and light epidermal blistering/peeling are occasional problems being trimmed in the fields. MFC Premium Romaine Lettuce is available.

Salads & Blends



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

Prices are unchanged; iceberg/romaine stocks are meeting demand. 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; supplies are abundant. Quality is very good: mildew pressure and tip burn are potential problems in some lots. RSS Conventional and Organic Spring Mixes are available.

Squash



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

Prices remain elevated due to weather conditions. Some bloom drop is expected and will negatively affect yields over the next two weeks. Quality ranges from good to very good. MFC Zucchini and Yellow Squash are available.

Strawberries



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

The overall market is level. California supplies are increasing. Cold Florida weather has shifted demand to the West Coast. Mexican stocks are sufficient. Quality is very good. MFC Strawberries are available.

Tomatoes



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

Mexican supplies are increasing due to warm, sunny weather. Freezing temperatures in Florida have caused bloom drop in some lots, reducing volume. Florida round, Roma, and cherry tomato markets are forecast to rise; strong demand will start pushing up Mexican markets. Grape tomato supplies are adequate. Overall quality is very good. MFC Tomatoes are available.

Tree Fruit



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

The market is level. Chilean white and yellow nectarine and peach stocks are meeting demand. Imported plums available; stocks are increasing. Quality is very good. Sugar levels are inching up.

Watermelon



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

Prices have stabilized; Mexican supplies are sufficient while demand is weak. Large sizes dominate current availability. Quality is very good: fruit is sweet and juicy.



READY-SET-SERVE
by MARKON

Ready-Set-Serve (RSS).
Table-ready fruits & vegetables.
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