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IN EVERY CASE.



Highlights

- Cold weather is lowering iceberg head weights in the Arizona/California desert region. Low temperatures are forecast through the week.
- Tight avocado supplies and elevated markets persist as Mexican growers work to refill the pipeline after last week's shipments were shutdown.
- Expect red bell pepper prices to remain high for the next two weeks. Mexican growers are struggling to keep up with demand; cool evenings are slowing the ripening process.

Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 27, 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: Brussels sprouts continue to sell well on menus. What are your creative ways of preparing them?

A: I like to create gratins using blanched RSS Brussels Sprout Halves, RSS Peeled Garlic, Markon First Crop® (MFC) Thyme, bacon, Bechamel sauce, Cheddar, Muenster, and Parmesan. This baked dish can be offered as a unique appetizer, side dish, or entrée.

- Sauté chopped Brussels sprouts with hazelnuts and bacon; deglaze with touch of cream; serve with roasted chicken.
- Serve slaw made with shredded Brussels sprouts and spicy mustard dressing.
- Finely dice and use to top tacos and tostadas.
- Add to stir-fries and curries.
- Shred and use to line sandwiches and burgers.

*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.



Shredded Kale Salad

This hearty salad works solo as an appetizer or topped with grilled chicken for an entrée.

Get the full recipe >

Tips for Serving Kale

- Form patties with mashed MFC Potatoes and sautéed RSS Shredded Kale; fry until browned; serve with breakfast entrées.
- Simmer RSS Washed & Trimmed Kale with pork shoulder, RSS Sliced Onions, okra, and tomatoes; serve with buttermilk biscuits.
- Add RSS Shredded Kale, chunks of butternut squash, and shaved Parmesan to risotto.



Browse additional usage tips >



Chefs love this broccoli-stem hummus recipe as it puts kitchen odds and ends to good use. Customers love it for the rich flavors and healthy nutrients. It's a delicious, sustainable win!

Produce Highlights

Asparagus

- Prices are expected to remain elevated through late March/early April.
- Inconsistent supply levels are forecast in both regions.

Basil

- Recent cool weather and high winds slowed plant maturity in Mexico.
- Mexican-grown basil will be limited for the next week or so.

Limes

- Supplies are extremely limited.
- High prices will persist through late March.

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Apples



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

The market is weak. 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	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are expected to remain elevated through the end of the Caborca season in Mexico (late March/early April). Inconsistent supply levels are forecast in both regions. 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, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Tight supplies and elevated prices persist as Mexican growers work to refill the pipeline after last week's shipments were shutdown. Ripe fruit will be limited through next week. 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 is expected to rise slightly. Mexican supplies are consistent in Sinaloa; however, cooler temperatures in Sonora are reducing overall volume. All sizes and grades are available. Florida production will fluctuate in the coming weeks. Quality is good: wind scarring is being observed in some lots. MFC and Markon Essentials® (ESS) Green Bell Peppers are available; packer label is being substituted as needed.

Bells: Red and Yellow



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

Expect prices to remain high for the next two weeks. Mexican growers are struggling to keep up with demand; cool evenings are slowing the ripening process. The East Coast does not produce a significant volume of colored peppers. Quality is good: choice grades are tight. MFC and ESS Red Bell Peppers are available.

Blackberries



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

The market is steady to slightly higher. Most shipments are from Mexico, but there are limited quantities out of Oxnard, California. Quality is very good: berries are plump and juicy with deep purple color.

Blueberries



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

Prices remain elevated. Mexican supplies are tight; 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, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
CA, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
MEX/TX	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

The market is level to slightly lower than last week; stocks are sufficient in the Arizona/California desert region and Mexico (into South Texas). Quality is very good: inconsistent size is an occasional issue caused by fluctuating temperatures. MFC Broccoli is available.



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Cantaloupe



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

Prices are unchanged; Mexican and offshore supplies are sufficient. Quality is very good: sugar levels range between 10 and 14 Brix.

Cauliflower



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

The market is stable to slightly lower; stocks are increasing. Quality is very good: color is snowy white and size is consistent. ESS Cauliflower is available.

Celery



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

Prices are inching up; the Arizona/California season is starting to wind down. Oxnard production will continue through June. Quality is excellent. MFC Celery is available.

Cucumbers



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

The market is fairly steady. Growers in Mexico are between fields, lowering volume. Offshore Honduran imports are tight; the season may end early. Florida production is forecast to start in mid-March. MFC and ESS Cucumbers are available.

Grapes



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

Prices are up. Imports from Chile and Peru are limited. Quality is good. 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 a bit higher; supplies are average. Quality is very good. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is available.

Honeydew



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

Prices are stable; crops 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, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Expect slightly higher markets for the next couple of weeks. Supplies are tightening; low weights, small size, and fluctuating densities are affecting lots throughout the industry. MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is sporadic; Markon Best Available is being packed as needed.

Lemons



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

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

Limes



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

High prices will persist through late March. Mexican volume is at its seasonal low. Limited supplies of offshore limes are in the marketplace. MFC and ESS Limes are sporadic; packer label substituted when necessary.

Onions



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

The market is up. Northwest supplies are on pace to be depleted sooner than normal. Quality remains average overall; however, occasional internal defects such as translucency, dryness, and watery scale may be seen. Mexican fresh-run onions (crossing into South Texas) are limited; rain has affected packing schedules. Texas grown MFC onions are set to start the week of March 9. California stocks will become available from the Imperial Valley in mid-April. The New Mexico season will begin in early June. MFC Red and Yellow Onions are available.

Oranges



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

Prices are up. 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 abundant. 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	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are stable; supplies are meeting demand. 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 remain high. The remaining crop is dominated by large sizes (40- and 50-count potatoes); smaller sizes (80- to 100-count supplies) are adequate. Norkotahs should remain on the market into early April; once they are depleted, Burbanks will be shipped through the rest of the season. MFC Burbank and Norkotah Potatoes are available.

Raspberries



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

Prices are a bit higher; volume is tightening. Quality is very good: berries are plump, deep red, and tangy sweet.

Romaine



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

Markets will be elevated into early March at minimum. Quality is good: freeze-related blistering/peeling and fringe/internal burn are more prevalent than in prior weeks. Industry supplies are forecast to increase in two to three weeks, pending weather. MFC Premium Romaine Lettuce is sporadic; MBA is being substituted as necessary due to low weights.

Salads & Blends



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

Prices are inching up; iceberg and romaine raw product stocks are tightening. 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 level; supplies are sufficient. Quality is very good: yellowing is minimal. RSS Conventional and Organic Spring Mixes are available.

Squash



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

Prices are stable. Mexican stocks (crossing into Nogales, Arizona) will remain abundant for a few weeks before production moves north in mid- to late March. Florida supplies are tightening, especially yellow squash. East Coast volume will rise in April. MFC Zucchini and Yellow Squash are available.

Strawberries



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

The market was inching down, yet more cold weather is forecast for the California growing regions; supplies will tighten. Ideal growing conditions have increased volume in Florida and Mexico. Quality is very good: size is increasing. MFC Strawberries are available.

Tomatoes



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

Round, Roma, and grape tomato prices are steady. Florida production will remain steady for another week or two, then tighten as growers move into fields affected by bloom drop. Expect a harvesting gap for several subsequent weeks. Quality is very good: wind scarring is an occasional issue. MFC Tomatoes are available.

Tree Fruit



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

The market is steady. Chilean white and yellow nectarine and peach stocks are meeting demand. Imported plum volume is rising. Quality is very good. Sugar levels are increasing.

Watermelon



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

Prices are stable. Mexican supplies are sufficient; demand is weak. Large sizes dominate current availability. Quality is very good: sugar levels range between 10 and 14 Brix.



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