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IN EVERY CASE.



Highlights

- Due to the last several weeks of volatile weather, Markon inspectors are currently seeing **heat and freeze-related quality challenges** simultaneously in desert lettuce crops.
- Iceberg and romaine **prices are rising**; yields are low due to inconsistent weather patterns in the Arizona/California desert region.
- Lime supplies remain extremely limited; Markets are climbing.

Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF MARCH 6, 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: Asparagus is a symbol of spring. What are some original ways you use it on your menus?

A: One of the most successful asparagus items on the menu when I worked at celebrity chef Waldy Malouf's Beacon in NYC was an asparagus and egg. We would take a non-stick pan and sauté the peeled asparagus, add an egg then top with toasted panko, lemon zest, Parmesan cheese, fresh herbs, and finish in our wood-fired oven.

- Lightly fry MFC Asparagus in buttermilk and panko breadcrumbs; serve with spicy wasabi dipping sauce.
- Wrap spears of MFC Asparagus in thinly sliced pancetta; grill until meat is crisp and asparagus is tender.
- Sauté MFC Asparagus, fresh morels, and shallots; serve over polenta with snipped MFC Chives.

*Chef Jonathon Merrick,
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.



Soba Noodle Salad with Peas and Bacon

Serve this salad as a shareable appetizer or main course. The tender buckwheat pasta is tossed with sugar snap and English peas, salty bacon, silken tofu, and the "it" condiment, XO sauce.

Get the full recipe >

Tips for Serving Red Potatoes

- Combine boiled and chopped red potatoes, cherry tomatoes, corn, green beans, and minced shallots; stir-in basil mayonnaise and serve with sandwiches and burgers.
- Toss boiled and chopped red potatoes with melted butter and chopped tarragon; serve with grilled or steamed fish.
- Thread boiled red potatoes and fennel slices on skewers; slather with Dijon mustard and grill.

Browse additional usage tips >





This twist on the traditional mayonnaise-based potato salad is packed with the umami flavors of black garlic and pairs well with smoked meats or grilled poultry.

Produce Highlights

Carrots

- California's Imperial Valley volume remains low due to cool weather.
- Demand for jumbo-size stocks exceeds supply.

Cucumbers

- Prices have eased.
- Volume is rising in Mexico.

Onions

- Texas-grown yellow onions are now shipping.
- Northwest storage supplies remain on pace to be depleted sooner than normal.

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Apples



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

Prices are low. Washington MFC Fuji, Gala, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, and Red Delicious Apples are available; storage supplies are 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 inching down; supplies have increased slightly. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Although growers are working hard to restore regular shipments after the recent shutdown, prices remain high. Quality is very good. RSS Avocado Chunks, Halves, Pico de Gallo Guacamole, and Pure Pulp are on the market.

Bells: Green



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

Prices are stable to slightly higher. Mexican supplies are sufficient in Sinaloa; production in Sonora is starting to rebound as weather warms. All sizes and grades are available. Florida stocks are adequate. Quality is good: wind scarring is an occasional problem. MFC and Markon Essentials® (ESS) Green Bell Peppers are available; packer label is being substituted as necessary.

Bells: Red and Yellow



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

The market remains elevated. Demand is strong in Mexico. The East Coast does not produce a significant volume of colored peppers. Quality is good: choice grades are limited. MFC and ESS Red Bell Peppers are available.

Blackberries



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

Prices are fairly steady. Mexican stocks are sufficient. Production has begun in Oxnard, California and will increase through the month. Quality is very good: berries are plump and juicy with deep purple color.

Blueberries



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

The market is high. Mexican stocks are limited but will increase once spring harvesting ramps up. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

Prices have eased; volume is ample in the Arizona/California desert region and Mexico (into South Texas). Quality is very good: inconsistent size is a minor issue caused by fluctuating temperatures. MFC Broccoli is available.



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Cantaloupe



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

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

Cauliflower



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

Prices are inching up; supplies are tightening due to erratic weather. Quality is very good: color is snowy white and size is consistent. ESS Cauliflower is available.

Celery



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

The market is a bit higher; the Arizona/California season is wrapping up. The Oxnard season will run through June. Quality is excellent. MFC Celery is available.

Cucumbers



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

Prices have eased due to weak demand. Mexican supplies have increased as some initial spring production has begun. Offshore stocks are limited; the season will end in a few weeks. Florida harvests will start in late March. Quality is very good: some wind scarring defects are being reported. MFC and ESS Cucumbers are available.

Grapes



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

The market is level. Imports from Chile and Peru are sufficient. Quality is good. MFC and ESS Green and Red Seedless Grapes as well as Lunch Bunch Grapes are available.

Green Leaf/Variety Lettuce



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

Prices have inched up; stocks are adequate despite weather challenges. Quality is very good. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is available.

Honeydew



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

The market is steady; yields 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	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are rising. Yields are low due to inconsistent weather; 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 steady. Domestic stocks 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	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

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/OR, USA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
TX	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
UT	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$
WA	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Prices remain elevated. Northwest storage stocks will be depleted sooner than normal. Overall quality is very good; however, occasional internal defects include translucency, dryness, and watery scale. Texas-grown and Mexican fresh-run yellow onions (crossing into South Texas) are limited but will increase as these seasons progress; red onions will enter the market next week. 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	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

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

Pears



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

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

Pineapple



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

The market is level; volume is average. 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 prices are elevated. The remaining crop is dominated by large sizes (40- and 50-count potatoes); smaller sizes (80- to 100-count stocks) are sufficient. Norkotahs will remain on the market into early April; once 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	^ ^ ^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is steady to slightly higher. Supplies are average. Quality is very good: berries are plump, deep red, and tangy sweet.

Romaine



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

Expect elevated prices for the next 10 days. Quality is average: freeze-related blistering/peeling and fringe/internal burn are prevalent. 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	^ ^ ^	*****	\$\$\$

Markets for raw product iceberg and romaine are climbing; volume is low. Low weights mean it takes more heads to reach needed volume. Markon's Quality Assurance team continues to monitor quality and processing for the best packs.

Spring Mix



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

Prices are steady; Arizona/California desert supplies are adequate. Quality is very good: yellowing is minimal. RSS Conventional and Organic Spring Mixes are available.

Squash



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

The market is level. Mexican supplies (crossing into Nogales, Arizona) are plentiful. Production will move north in mid- to late March. Florida volume has dipped, especially yellow squash. East Coast stocks will increase in April. MFC Zucchini and Yellow Squash are available.

Strawberries



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

Prices are up; fluctuating California weather is reducing volume. Ideal conditions have aided growth in Florida and Mexico. Quality is very good. MFC Strawberries are available.

Tomatoes



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

The round, Roma, and grape tomato markets are stable. Florida volume will remain steady through this week, 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 a sporadic problem. MFC Tomatoes are available.

Tree Fruit



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

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

Watermelon



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

The market is unchanged. Mexican volume is average; demand is weak. Large sizes dominate current availability. Quality is very good: sugar levels range between 10 and 14 Brix.



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