

CONFIDENCE
IN EVERY CASE.



Highlights

- Markon First Crop® (MFC) Premium Green Leaf Lettuce weights are higher on average than the rest of the industry (23 to 26 pounds compared with 19 to 24 pounds).
- Iceberg and romaine volume has increased with Huron production underway. The Arizona/California desert season will end in late March to early April. The Salinas season will begin in early to mid-April.
- As the Northwest storage onion season winds down, quality is beginning to weaken. Defects include dry and watery scale, along with translucency.

Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF MARCH 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: Eggplant is a versatile ingredient that can be fried, baked, roasted/pureed...how do you showcase it?

A: My favorite eggplant dish is Sicilian caponata, a vegetable stew that combines roasted eggplant, red bell peppers, onions, garlic, tomatoes, capers, and olives. It can be served as a side dish, under lamb chops, or served with crostini as an appetizer or bar snack.

- Eggplant parmigiana is a rich, cheesy dish that appeals to vegetarians and meat lovers alike.
- Greek moussaka combines eggplant, ground beef, garlic, onions, and tomatoes. Top with a decadent bechamel sauce and bake until bubbly.
- Levantine baba ghanoush can be a partner or substitute to hummus dips. Puree roasted eggplant with lemon juice, olive oil, garlic, and salt; serve with dipping bread or raw vegetables.

*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.



Basil-Garlic Asparagus

Tender spears of grassy asparagus are tossed with earthy, zesty herbs and garlic—great with steaks or fish.

Get the full recipe >

Tips for Serving Brussels Sprouts

- Serve slaw made with shredded RSS Brussels Sprouts and spicy mustard dressing.
- Finely dice and use to top tacos and tostadas.
- Add RSS Brussels Sprout Halves to stir-fries and curries.
- Shred and use to line sandwiches and burgers.

Browse additional usage tips >





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A great alternative to lettuce-based salads, this dish combines the earthiness of Brussels sprouts with the licorice-like flavors of fennel. Dress with a bright, citrusy vinaigrette and serve solo or with roasted poultry.

Produce Highlights

Cauliflower

- Volume remains low, keeping prices elevated.
- Expect markets to ease when the Salinas, California season ramps up.

Celery

- Prices remain fairly elevated.
- The Arizona/California desert season is winding down, shifting demand to Oxnard and Santa Maria, California.

Limes

- Expect high markets and limited Mexican supplies into mid-April.
- Very small sizes (250- and 275-count fruit) are becoming more prevalent.

Apples



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

The market is level. Washington MFC Fuji, Gala, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, and Red Delicious Apples are available; 88- to 113-count sizes dominate storage supplies. Quality is excellent: sugar levels range from 12 to 14 Brix.

Asparagus



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

Prices are weak. Mexican stocks are abundant. Peruvian imports will remain tight through early April. 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	^^^	*****	\$\$\$

The market is steady. Mexican supplies are dominated by 48-count and larger sizes. Quality is very good. RSS Avocado Chunks, Halves, Pico de Gallo Guacamole, and Pure Pulp are on the market.

Bell Peppers - Green/Red



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

Green bell prices are slightly lower; demand is moderate. Florida stocks are tight due to the early February freezing conditions which caused bloom drop; volume will rise in mid-April. Between lower production from older plants and a good chunk of product being harvested at the green stage to capitalize on the hot green bell market, red bell pepper availability is lighter. Canada's season is off to a good start; volume will gradually rise. MFC and Markon Essentials® (ESS) Green and Red Bell Peppers are available.

Blackberries



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

The market is unchanged. Mexican supplies are adequate. New crop harvesting is increasing in Oxnard, California. Quality is very good: berries are plump and juicy with deep purple color.

Blueberries



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

Prices are level. Mexican new crop supplies are increasing. Delays at ports and unloading challenges persist on the import market. Quality is very good.

Broccoli



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

The market is weak. Production is underway in Salinas; the Arizona and California desert seasons will end by mid-April. Quality is very good: head size is consistent. MFC Broccoli is available.

Cantaloupe



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

Prices are up; demand is strong. The Arizona/California desert season will start in early May. Sugar levels range between 10 and 14 Brix.

Cauliflower



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

Volume remains low, keeping prices elevated. Expect markets to ease when the Salinas, California season ramps up. Head size is consistent ESS Cauliflower is available.



Fresh Crop Report

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Celery



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

Prices remain fairly elevated. The Arizona/California desert season is winding down, shifting demand to Oxnard and Santa Maria, California where yields are increasing with warm weather. Florida volume has rebounded; the season is expected to conclude in late April. Expect steady to slightly lower prices over the next two to three weeks. MFC Celery is available.

Chile Peppers



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

Prices are elevated. Production is waning in Florida due to cold weather. Mexican volume is average, but demand is strong. Spring Sonora crops will start in two weeks, increasing overall stocks. The Florida season is behind schedule; many crops experienced bloom drop during the February freeze.

Cucumbers



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

The market is up; demand is consistent. Florida spring production has begun, but stocks are limited; expect increased yields over the next few weeks. Cool weather has slowed growth in Mexico. Quality is good: wind scarring and sunken spots are minimal. MFC and ESS Cucumbers are available.

Grapes



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

Prices are level; imported supply is meeting demand. 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 are easing; supplies are increasing. Harvesting has begun in Huron, California. Quality is excellent with minimal defects; varying levels of insect pressure are affecting most lots. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is available.

Honeydew



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

Prices are up; 8- and 9-count sizes are tight. The domestic season is set to start in mid-May. Quality is very good: sugar levels range between 10 and 14 Brix.

Iceberg Lettuce



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

The market is inching down. Volume has increased with Huron production underway. The Arizona/California desert season will end in late March to early April. The Salinas season will begin in early to mid-April. MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is sporadic; Markon Best Available® (MBA) is being packed as necessary.

Lemons



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

Prices are unchanged. The California coastal region is the main growing source at this time; choice grade fruit dominates harvests. MFC and ESS Lemons are available.

Limes



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

Expect high markets and limited Mexican supplies into mid-April; 250- and 275-count fruit are becoming prevalent. MFC and ESS Limes are sporadic; packer label substituted as needed.

Onions



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

As the Northwest storage onion season winds down, quality is beginning to weaken. Defects include dry and watery scale, along with translucency. Texas-grown MFC Onions are increasing. Mexican supplies are adequate. The California Imperial Valley season will start the week of April 18. MFC Red and Yellow Onions are available.

Oranges



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

Prices are unchanged. Large sizes (56- to 88-count packs) dominate the California Navel crop; smaller sizes (113- and 138-count) are limited. Quality is very good: sugar levels range from 10 to 13 Brix. MFC Navel Oranges are available.

Pears



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

The market is weak; storage stocks are ample. MFC D'Anjou Pears are available; 80- to 110-count fruit is abundant. California Bartletts will become available in June.

Pineapple



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

Prices are steady; supplies are sufficient in both growing regions. 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	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Norkotah supplies will be depleted by early April; once that occurs, Burbanks will be the sole variety for the rest of the season. The market is rising as suppliers work to extend remaining storage volume. MFC Burbank and Norkotah Potatoes are available.

Raspberries



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

Prices are fairly steady; stocks are sufficient. Quality is very good: berries are plump, deep red, and tangy sweet.

Romaine



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

The market is inching down. Volume has increased with Huron production underway. Lots are being affected with varying levels of epidermal blistering and peeling; insect pressure remains a sporadic issue. The Arizona/California desert season will end in late March to early April. The Salinas season will begin in early to mid-April. 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	▲▲▲	*****	\$\$\$

Raw product iceberg and romaine are up; industry supplies are tight, but will start increasing once the Huron and Salinas seasons are fully underway. 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 stable; Arizona/California desert supply is meeting demand. Quality is very good: yellowing is minimal. The seasonal transition will be complete by the week of April 18. RSS Conventional and Organic Spring Mixes are available.

Squash



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

Prices are steady at high levels. Florida stocks are tight; wind and weather have caused excessive scarring. Spring production will begin in April. Cool weather has hindered growth in Mexico, but higher temperatures will increase production moving forward. MFC Zucchini and Yellow Squash are available.

Strawberries



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

The market has stabilized. Although production is ending in Central Mexico and Florida, stocks are increasing in California. Quality is very good. MFC Strawberries are available.

Tomatoes



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

Round and Roma prices are inching up; many growers are moving to new crop fields, temporarily decreasing volume. Grape tomato supplies are tightening; quality is erratic this week. MFC Tomatoes are available.

Tree Fruit



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

The market is level. Chilean white and yellow nectarine and peach supplies are sufficient. Imported plums are on the market. Quality is very good: sugar levels range from medium to high.

Watermelon



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

Prices are steady. Mexican supplies are average. Large sizes are especially abundant. Quality is very good: sugar levels range between 10 and 14 Brix.



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