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## Highlights

- Markon First Crop® (MFC) Premium Romaine weights are higher on average than the rest of the industry (36 to 38 pounds compared with 29 to 36 pounds).
- Expect slightly lower cabbage prices through May as supplies continue to ramp up in the Salinas Valley.
- California's Valencia orange harvest is underway and will run into October.

# Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF MAY 22, 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:** With spring in full swing, what ingredients do you recommend that can be cross utilized across menus?

**A:** I enjoy employing Ready-Set-Serve® (RSS) Baby Spinach, Baby Kale, and Wild Arugula on menus. They can all be used as healthy components on an entrée, as the base for salads, to accent hand-held offerings, and add an artisanal finish to pizzas and flatbreads.

- Toss RSS Urban Blend with fresh Burrata cheese, heirloom tomatoes, Parmesan croutons, and marinated artichokes.
- Brown bacon in a sauté pan; hand-mix RSS Baby Kale Mix in dripping, then toss all with crumbled bacon, hard-boiled egg, and house-made Parmesan croutons.

*Chef Darren Lexa,  
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.



### RSS Urban Blend with Sriracha Shrimp

Spicy shrimp, earthy greens, and sweet berries lend balance to this on-trend, versatile salad.

**Get the full recipe >**

## Tips for Serving RSS Urban Blend

- RSS Urban Blend makes a hearty salad when served raw with toppings and dressings like avocados, sliced fruit, grated beets, garbanzo beans, and hard cheeses.
- Sauté or stir-fry this mix on its own or with ingredients like garlic, ginger, mushrooms, and onions for a delicious side dish.
- Make a green smoothie with this blend—add items like avocados, bananas, ginger, turmeric, pineapple, and coconut water.

**Browse additional usage tips >**





A sweet twist on an Italian favorite, this strawberry caprese parfait combines both sweet and savory notes—it can be served as an appetizer, cheese course, or dessert.

## Produce Highlights

### Celery

- Supplies are tight.
- Expect elevated markets until the harvesting transition to Salinas, California is complete in mid- to late June.

### Idaho Potatoes

- Idaho Norkotah potatoes are expected to be depleted by May 31.
- Burbanks will be the sole variety on the market until new crop, field run, Norkotahs become available early August.

### Seedless Lemons

- Seedless lemons are available.
- Harvesting will end in mid-June; new crop production will start in early November.

# Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF MAY 22, 2022

## Apples



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

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

## Asparagus



| Region  | Supplies | Quality | Price  |
|---------|----------|---------|--------|
| MEX     | ▲▲▲      | *****   | \$\$\$ |
| PERU/FL | ▲▲▲      | *****   | \$\$\$ |

Prices are level; volume is rising. 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     | ▲▲▲      | *****   | \$\$\$ |
| PERU    | ▲▲▲      | *****   | \$\$\$ |

Expect limited supplies and elevated markets through the summer. Small avocados are becoming limited as demand has shifted to these sizes. Peruvian stocks are now shipping. RSS Avocado Chunks, Halves, Pico de Gallo Guacamole, and Pure Pulp are available.

## Bell Peppers - Green/Red



| Region     | Supplies | Quality | Price  |
|------------|----------|---------|--------|
| CA, USA    | ▲▲▲      | *****   | \$\$\$ |
| CAN        | ▲▲▲      | *****   | \$\$\$ |
| EAST COAST | ▲▲▲      | *****   | \$\$\$ |
| MEX        | ▲▲▲      | *****   | \$\$\$ |

Green bell prices are steady. The market for red bells is up. On the East Coast, Florida production is winding down while harvesting is getting a late start in Georgia. California desert supplies are sufficient, but size is on the small end of the spectrum; extreme temperatures are limiting harvest time. Growers will move to Fresno in early June. Canadian greenhouse volume has dipped due to overcast conditions. The Mexican season is ending. MFC and Markon Essentials® (ESS) Green and Red Bell Peppers are available.

## Blackberries



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

The market is unchanged; supplies are sufficient. Quality is very good: berries are plump and sweet with deep purple color.

## Blueberries



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

Prices are up a bit as production winds down in mainland Mexico. Supplies are increasing in California's San Joaquin Valley. Baja harvesting will hit its peak in two to three weeks. Quality is very good.

## Broccoli



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

The market is low; supplies are plentiful. Quality is very good: head size is consistent. MFC Broccoli is available.

## Cantaloupe



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

Prices will continue to inch down as the California desert season progresses. The offshore season is ending. Mexican supplies are adequate. Sugar levels range between 10 and 14 Brix.

## Cauliflower



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

The market is fairly stable; Salinas Valley stocks are becoming more plentiful due to recent hot weather. Quality is very good: sizes is increasing. ESS Cauliflower availability is tightening.



# Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF MAY 22, 2022

## Celery



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

Supplies are tight. Expect elevated markets until the harvesting transition to Salinas, California is complete in mid- to late June. The Michigan season will start in early July. Quality is average: seeder problems will persist through the Oxnard season. MFC Celery is available.

## Chile Peppers



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

The majority of East Coast volume is being harvested in Plant City, Florida; the season will run through June. The Georgia season will start in two weeks. Volume is high out of mainland Mexico. The Baja season is getting started and will hit volume levels by early June. Overall quality is very good: skins are smooth and deeply colored, while flavor is intense.

## Cucumbers



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

Prices are steady. East Coast production is moving to Georgia. Mexican stocks are available in both the mainland and Baja. Quality is very good: scarring is a slight problem. MFC and ESS Cucumbers are available.

## Grapes



| Region | Supplies | Quality | Price  |
|--------|----------|---------|--------|
| CHILE  | ▲▲▲      | *****   | \$\$\$ |
| MEX    | ▲▲▲      | *****   | \$\$\$ |

High markets persist. The Chilean grape season will end in early June. Quality is average. Mexican fruit will start shipping this week. California harvests will begin in early to mid-July. MFC and ESS Green and Red Seedless Grapes as well as Lunch Bunch Grapes are available.

## Green Leaf/Variety Lettuce



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

Prices are steady; Salinas Valley stocks are sufficient. Quality is very good: fringe burn is an occasional problem. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is available.

## Honeydew



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

The market is inching down. Mexican stocks are plentiful. The offshore season is ending. California desert production is getting started. Quality is good: sugar levels range between 10 and 14 Brix.

## Iceberg Lettuce



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

Prices are level. Salinas Valley supplies are abundant, but some head weights are not meeting specifications. MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is sporadic; Markon Best Available® is being substituted as necessary.

## Lemons



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

Fancy grade markets remain higher than prices for choice grade fruit. Seedless lemons are available. Harvesting will end in mid-June; new crop production will start in early November. MFC and ESS Lemons are available.

## Limes



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

Prices are lower. Large sizes remain snug and are more expensive than small fruit. The crop is dominated by 200 to 250-count sizes; 110- and 150-count fruit will remain tight through June. Quality is very good. MFC and ESS Limes are available.

## Onions



| Region  | Supplies | Quality | Price  |
|---------|----------|---------|--------|
| CA, USA | ▲▲▲      | *****   | \$\$\$ |
| TX, USA | ▲▲▲      | *****   | \$\$\$ |

New crop California Imperial Valley onions are on the market; growers will move to the San Joaquin Valley the first week of June. Texas-grown supplies will be depleted this week. The New Mexico season will begin next week (with limited supplies). Fresh-run MFC Red and Yellow Onions are available.

## Oranges



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

California's Valencia orange harvest is underway and will run into October. Prices are starting to ease. Quality is very good: sugar levels range from 10.5 to 12 Brix. MFC Valencia Oranges are available.

## Pears



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

The market is unchanged; storage stocks are meeting demand. MFC Washington D'Anjou Pears will be available through late July; the crop is dominated by 90- to 110-count supplies. Small sizes are tight. The new crop California Bartlett season will start in early July.

## Pineapple



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

Prices are stable; supplies are adequate in Costa Rica and Ecuador. Quality is excellent: fruit is firm, sweet, and tangy.



# Fresh Crop Report

WEEK OF MAY 22, 2022

## Potatoes



| Region  | Supplies | Quality | Price  |
|---------|----------|---------|--------|
| CO, USA | ^ ^ ^    | *****   | \$\$\$ |
| ID, USA | ^ ^ ^    | *****   | \$\$\$ |
| OR, USA | ^ ^ ^    | *****   | \$\$\$ |
| TX, USA | ^ ^ ^    | *****   | \$\$\$ |
| WA, USA | ^ ^ ^    | *****   | \$\$\$ |

The market is high. Idaho Norkotah potatoes are expected to be depleted by May 31. Burbanks will be the sole variety on the market until new crop, field run, Norkotahs become available early August. Quality is good: pressure and shoulder bruising, along with hollow heart, are problems.

## Raspberries



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

Prices are stable; stocks are sufficient in both growing regions. Quality is very good: berries are plump, deep red, and tangy sweet.

## Romaine



| Region  | Supplies | Quality | Price  |
|---------|----------|---------|--------|
| CA, USA | ^ ^ ^    | *****   | \$\$\$ |

The market is steady; Salinas Valley supplies are abundant. Quality is very good, although fringe burn and seeder are occasional problems at this time of year. MFC Premium Romaine Lettuce is available.

## Salads & Blends



| Region  | Supplies | Quality | Price  |
|---------|----------|---------|--------|
| CA, USA | ^ ^ ^    | *****   | \$\$\$ |

Prices for raw product iceberg and romaine are unchanged; Salinas Valley stocks are ample. Markon's Quality Assurance team continues to monitor quality and processing for the best packs.

## Spring Mix



| Region  | Supplies | Quality | Price  |
|---------|----------|---------|--------|
| CA, USA | ^ ^ ^    | *****   | \$\$\$ |

The market is level. Salinas Valley supplies are ample. Quality is very good: yellowing is minimal. RSS Conventional and Organic Spring Mixes are available.

## Squash



| Region     | Supplies | Quality | Price  |
|------------|----------|---------|--------|
| CA, USA    | ^ ^ ^    | *****   | \$\$\$ |
| EAST COAST | ^ ^ ^    | *****   | \$\$\$ |
| MEX        | ^ ^ ^    | *****   | \$\$\$ |

Zucchini prices are steady; yellow squash markets are slightly higher. The Florida season has reached its mid-point; growers are harvesting in Georgia as well. The Santa Maria, California season has begun; stocks will increase next week. MFC Zucchini and Yellow Squash are available.

## Strawberries



| Region     | Supplies | Quality | Price  |
|------------|----------|---------|--------|
| CA, USA    | ^ ^ ^    | *****   | \$\$\$ |
| EAST COAST | ^ ^ ^    | *****   | \$\$\$ |

The market is stable. Supplies are adequate; recent cool weather reduced volume in California. The Santa Maria and Salinas/Watsonville seasons are underway and will peak over the next two to four weeks. Quality is very good: berries are deep red, juicy, and sweet. MFC Strawberries are available.

## Tomatoes



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

Strong demand has pushed up prices slightly; Production is winding down in Ruskin/Palmetto, Florida. The transition to Quincy, Florida is a bit behind schedule. Round tomato harvesting is transitioning from mainland Mexico to Baja and California. MFC Tomatoes are available.

## Tree Fruit



| Region  | Supplies | Quality | Price  |
|---------|----------|---------|--------|
| CA, USA | ^ ^ ^    | *****   | \$\$\$ |

The market is starting to inch down. New crop California nectarine and peach volume is increasing. Apricots and cherries are also available. Quality is very good: sugar levels range from medium to high.

## Watermelon



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

Prices are starting to inch up as demand strengthens for Memorial Day. Mexican stocks are ample. Quality is excellent: sugar levels vary between 10 and 14 Brix.



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