



FRESH CROP REPORT

WEEK OF DECEMBER 18, 2022



MARKON
ESSENTIALS

HIGHLIGHTS

Desert Lettuce Ice

This week's cold weather caused lettuce ice in Arizona desert crops. Plant growth will slow down and ice-related defects such as epidermal blistering and peeling will become more common in the coming weeks.

Onions

Quality coming out of the Northwest is excellent; supplies possess solid, globe-like shape, and firm texture. Yellow onions have golden, cured skins. Red onion skins have set nicely with occasional papery layers. Steady markets will hold through the holidays.

Grapes

The California season will wrap up in late December; expect pricing to gradually increase. Delays are being reported in offshore arrivals; expect tight supplies through the month of January.



GREEN LEAF

- Expect sustained lower pricing in the coming weeks.
- Cold weather and lettuce ice are impacting crops in the desert; however, industry supplies continue to increase despite harvest delays

IDAHO POTATOES

- Expect prices to push upward through the Christmas holiday.
- Extremely low temperatures are tightening shipments.

STRAWBERRIES

- California rain has tightened supplies and driven up prices.
- Fruit from Florida and Mexico is being used to supplement orders; markets in these regions will ease as production moves into fully swing.

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bell peppers
green/red

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
CA	///	*****	\$\$\$
EAST COAST	///	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	///	*****	\$\$\$

The market is unchanged. Florida supplies are increasing; demand is strong for extra-large sizes. Quality is improving, although there are some weather-impacted peppers on the market. Mexican green bell volume is rising in Sinaloa and Sonora; reds will be tight for another few weeks. Quality is very good. MFC and Markon Essentials® (ESS) Green and Red Bell Peppers are available.



apples

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
MI	///	*****	\$\$\$
WA	///	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are stable. Expect suppliers to stretch volume this season as overall volume is lower than past years. Michigan growers will continue to see well-above average supply levels. Quality is excellent: sugar levels range from 14 to 18 Brix. Washington Markon First Crop® (MFC) Braeburn, Fuji, Gala, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, and Red Delicious Apples are available.



asparagus

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
MEX	///	*****	\$\$\$
PERU/FL	///	*****	\$\$\$

The market is fairly steady to a bit lower. Jumbo and extra-large sizes remain tight out of Baja, Mexico. Peruvian supplies are sufficient. Quality is very good. MFC Asparagus is available.



avocados

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
CA	///	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	///	*****	\$\$\$
PERU	///	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are level; supplies are adequate. Quality is very good: texture is smooth and flavor is slightly nutty. Ready-Set-Serve® (RSS) Avocado Chunks, Halves, Pico de Gallo Guacamole, and Pure Pulp are available.



blackberries

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
CA	///	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	///	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are low. Volume will remain at its peak for another week or two, then decrease through the end of the year. Rain and cold weather have reduced Mexican supplies slightly. Quality is very good: berries are plump and juicy.



blueberries

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
MEX	///	*****	\$\$\$
PERU	///	*****	\$\$\$

The market is stable. Stocks are increasing in Central Mexico and Peru. Quality is very good: size is large and flavor is sweet yet tangy.

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broccoli

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
AZ + CA	///	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	///	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are starting to inch down, but persistently low temperatures continue to limit yields in the Arizona/California desert region. Mexican markets are escalating; demand is strong. Quality is fair; heads size is small and mildew is a problem due to elevated humidity. MFC Broccoli is available out of California; Markon Best Available® (MBA) Broccoli is available from Mexico (into South Texas).



cantaloupe

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
MEX	///	*****	\$\$\$
OFFSHORE	///	*****	\$\$\$

The transition from Mexico to offshore regions is nearly complete. Expect higher markets as offshore fruit is more expensive overall. Quality is good, but there is a potential for bruising due to increased shipping time. Sugar levels range between 10 and 14 Brix.



cauliflower

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
AZ + CA	///	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are easing; supplies are starting to increase in the Arizona/California desert region despite low temperatures. Quality is very good. ESS Cauliflower is available.



celery

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
AZ + CA	///	*****	\$\$\$

The market is extremely elevated due to strong holiday demand and limited stocks. Oxnard is the primary California growing region; fusarium is reducing harvestable yields but isn't as prevalent as last year. Arizona/California desert harvesting is getting underway. MFC Celery is available.



chile peppers

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
CA	///	*****	\$\$\$
FL	///	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	///	*****	\$\$\$

With Hurricane Ian causing interruption, Plant City, Florida growers are off to a late start but are now shipping most varieties. Stocks remain tight in mainland Mexico. Serranos, Habaneros and Anaheims are snug. Expect more crops to become available over the next 7-10 days. Quality ranges from good to very good. MFC Anaheim, Jalapeno, Pasilla, and Serrano Chiles are on the market.



cucumbers

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
FL	///	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	///	*****	\$\$\$
OFFSHORE	///	*****	\$\$\$

The market is stable. The Florida season is winding down this week. Offshore supplies have started shipping; volume will increase in by early January. Cooler weather has slowed production in mainland Mexico (into Nogales, Arizona); large sizes are snug. MFC and ESS Cucumbers are available.



grapes

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
CA	///	*****	\$\$\$

The California season will wrap up in late December. **Expect pricing to gradually increase** as the California season winds down. Delays are being reported in offshore arrivals; tight supplies are forecast through the month of January.

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green leaf

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
AZ + CA	///	*****	\$\$\$

Expect sustained lower markets in the coming weeks. Lettuce ice is limiting harvestable hours although overall supplies continue to increase. Quality is very good; fringe burn is being trimmed at harvest. MFC Premium Green Leaf Lettuce is being packed regularly.



honeydew

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
MEX	///	*****	\$\$\$
OFFSHORE	///	*****	\$\$\$

The market is elevated. The Mexican season will continue into early January. Offshore fruit has started to ship; these prices are generally higher than domestic. Quality ranges from fair to good; there is the potential for softness due to increased shipping time.



iceberg

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
AZ +CA	///	*****	\$\$\$

Markets are inching down from historic highs; supplies are slowly increasing. Cold weather is causing quality damage including epidermal blistering and peeling that is being trimmed at harvest. MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is sporadic due to low weights; MBA is being packed as necessary.



lemons

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
CA	///	*****	\$\$\$
IMPORTS	///	*****	\$\$\$

The market is level. Stocks are abundant in California's Districts One and Two; small- and medium-size fruit are most plentiful. Seedless lemons are also available in the California desert region. MFC and ESS Lemons are available.



limes

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
MEX/TX	///	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are starting to climb. Expect volume to decline through the end of the year; 110- and 150-count sizes are most plentiful. Quality is good; light colored, stylar, and scarring are occasional problems. MFC and ESS Limes are available.



onions

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
ID	///	*****	\$\$\$
OR	///	*****	\$\$\$
UT	///	*****	\$\$\$
WA	///	*****	\$\$\$

Expect steady markets through the holidays. Northwest quality is excellent; supplies possess solid, globe-like shape, and firm texture. Mexican stocks will start shipping into South Texas in February. MFC Red and Yellow Onions are available from Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.



oranges

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
CA	///	*****	\$\$\$
IMPORTS	///	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are unchanged. The Navel season is fully underway; stocks are ample. Small sizes dominate the crop. MFC and ESS Navel Oranges are on the market.



pears

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
WA	///	*****	\$\$\$

The market is stable. MFC Washington D'Anjous are available; 80- to 100-count sizes dominate both crops. Quality is excellent. MFC Washington Bartletts will be on the market through late January/early February, but quality has diminished.

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pineapples

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
CR	///	*****	\$\$\$
ECUADOR	///	*****	\$\$\$

The market is stable; stocks are sufficient. New crop quality is very good: fruit is juicy and tangy-sweet.



red/yellow potatoes

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
AZ	///	*****	\$\$\$
CA	///	*****	\$\$\$
ID + WA	///	*****	\$\$\$
MN	///	*****	\$\$\$
ND	///	*****	\$\$\$
TX	///	*****	\$\$\$
WI	///	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are fairly steady; supplies are adequate. Quality is very good. MFC Red and Yellow Idaho Red and Yellow Potatoes are available.



potatoes

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
CO	///	*****	\$\$\$
ID	///	*****	\$\$\$
OR	///	*****	\$\$\$
WA	///	*****	\$\$\$

Expect markets to push upward through the Christmas holiday. Extremely cold weather is tightening shipments. Temperatures need to be 18°F or higher for 5 to 7 hours to haul potatoes from cellars to packing sheds. MFC Burbank and Norkotah Potatoes are available in Idaho and Washington.



raspberries

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
CA	///	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	///	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are up. Supplies are tightening in Central Mexico. Oxnard, California harvests will continue through January. Quality ranges from good to very good: berries are sweet and plump.



romaine

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
AZ + CA	///	*****	\$\$\$

Expect sustained lower markets in the coming weeks. Lettuce ice is limiting harvestable hours although overall supplies continue to increase. Quality is good; wind damage as well as epidermal blistering and peeling are being trimmed at harvest. MFC Premium Romaine Lettuce is being packed regularly.



salads & blends

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
AZ + CA	///	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are stabilizing. Cold weather is reducing head weights in Yuma, Arizona, but overall stocks are increasing. Markon's Quality Assurance team continues to monitor quality and processing for the best packs.

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spring mix

Although supplies are increasing, overall volume is low. Cold weather is slowing growth. Morning frost conditions are further reducing daily availability. Ready-Set-Serve Arugula, Spinach, and Spring Mix is sporadic.

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
AZ + CA	///	*****	\$\$\$



squash

Prices are a bit lower. Good weather has increased stocks in Plant City and South Florida. Mexican volume is climbing in Sinaloa (into Nogales, Arizona); expect ample supplies for the next few weeks. Quality is very good. MFC Yellow and Zucchini Squash is available.

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
FL	///	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	///	*****	\$\$\$



strawberries

California rain has **tightened supplies and driven up prices**. Fruit from Florida and Mexico is being used to supplement orders; markets in these regions will ease as production moves into fully swing. Florida MFC Strawberries are now shipping. California MFC Strawberries are sporadic; packer label will be substituted when necessary.

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
CA	///	*****	\$\$\$
FL	///	*****	\$\$\$
MEX/TX	///	*****	\$\$\$



tomatoes

Prices are starting to inch down. Florida volume is low but should bounce back after Christmas. Stocks will increase in January when growers move into fields replanted after the hurricanes (including grape tomatoes). Suppliers will begin harvesting in Naples by late December. Mexican growers are moving to Culiacan, Guasave, and La Cruz; supplies will ramp up over the next ten days. Grape tomato supplies are rebounding. Quality will greatly improve in new crop fruit. MFC Tomatoes are sporadic; packer label will be shipped as necessary.

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
EAST COAST	///	*****	\$\$\$
MEX	///	*****	\$\$\$



tree fruit

California stone fruit is not available. Nectarine, peach, and plum supplies will re-enter the market when the Chilean season begins in mid-January.

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
CA	///	*****	\$\$\$



watermelon

The market is high; expect tight supplies until offshore volume rises. Stocks are extremely limited in Northern Mexico. Quality ranges from fair to average.

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
MEX	///	*****	\$\$\$
OFFSHORE	///	*****	\$\$\$

ASK A MARKON CHEF

Markon has gathered a group of our member- and grower-affiliated chefs to answer your questions about produce.



CHEF KEITH SCHALK
MARKON MEMBER CHEF

Q

What's your favorite way to use Ready-Set-Serve Peeled Garlic on the menu?

A

OMG GARLIC! I love this ingredient so much. Whether fire roasted and spread on table bread, or blended into a compound butter, I can't get enough. In fact, I use it in almost every savory recipe. The best part of using Markon's RSS Peeled Garlic is you save so much time not having to cut and peel the bulb. 100% usable, just open, and get busy creating.



Popular in most of the world's cuisine's this kitchen workhorse can be used to flavor sauces, dressings, dips, and marinades.



Raw garlic has a pungent bite, while when roasted, it gains complexity and a hint of sweetness.



TIPS FOR SERVING GARLIC:



- 1.** Make kimchi by pickling RSS Green Cabbage with RSS Sliced Onions, RSS Peeled Garlic, RSS Washed & Trimmed Green Onions, ginger, and cayenne
- 2.** Combine sliced MFC Cucumbers, chopped RSS Peeled Garlic, baby dill, and plain yogurt; serve with pita.
- 3.** Toss thinly sliced MFC Potatoes with salt and chopped RSS Peeled Garlic; bake until crisp then serve chips with curry-lime yogurt dip.

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.

Cranberry Compote with Fennel and Blood Orange

Give cranberries tang and zest with blood oranges and fresh fennel; simmer until thick and serve with poultry or game.

- 12 oz. Fresh cranberries
- 1 Markon First Crop Fennel bulb
- 1 T Blood orange zest
- 1 Blood orange (regular orange can be substituted)
- 1 tsp. Lemon zest
- ½ C Ready-Set-Serve Proprietary Blend Orange Juice
- 2 T Ready-Set-Serve Lemon Juice
- 1 C Sugar
- 2 C Water
- ½ Vanilla bean

Remove top of fennel. Cut in half, then into thin strips.

Cut skin from Blood orange; cut between membranes for segments.

Place all ingredients except orange segments into non-reactive pot; simmer until reduced by half. Mixture will begin to thicken. Add orange segments and simmer for an additional 5 minutes.

Remove from heat; cool.

Unctuous

lamb pairs
divinely with
the mellow flavor
of mashed potato
and the licorice-
like bite of
celeriac.

