



FRESH CROP REPORT

WEEK OF DECEMBER 25, 2022



MARKON
ESSENTIALS

HIGHLIGHTS

Desert Lettuce Ice

Although fewer ice events occurred this week, the effects of preceding low temperatures, such as epidermal blistering and peeling will be seen for the next several weeks.

Baby Tuscan Lettuce

Markon First Crop® (MFC) Baby Tuscan Lettuce supplies are extremely limited. Tight supplies are expected until the week of January 9, when growers are able to enter second plantings unaffected by past rain and hailstorms that damaged current yields.

Green Leaf, Iceberg, & Romaine

Despite continued cold weather, markets are weaker as supplies are picking up and getting closer to meeting demand.



PEARS

- Washington and Oregon D'Anjou pears will be available through August.
- Washington Bartlett supplies will be depleted by the end of January.

CELERY

- Despite multiple areas harvesting, expect elevated markets into January.
- California supplies are tight while Florida's season has just begun.

GRAPES

- The California season is ending; markets are climbing.
- Delays are being reported in offshore arrivals; tight supplies are forecast through the month of January.

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apples

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

The market is holding steady. Suppliers are expected stretch volume throughout the storage season as overall volume is lower than past years. Michigan growers are seeing well-above average stocks. Quality is excellent: sugar levels range from 14 to 18 Brix. Washington MFC Braeburn, Fuji, Gala, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, and Red Delicious Apples are available.



asparagus

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

Prices are inching up. Jumbo and extra-large sizes remain limited in Baja, Mexico. Peruvian stocks are sporadic due to political problems in that region. Quality is very good. MFC Asparagus is available.



avocados

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

The market is level; volume is average. 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.



bell peppers
green/red

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

Prices are relatively stable. Florida stocks are sufficient; demand is strong for extra-large sizes. Quality is very good, although some weather-impacted peppers remain on the market. Mexican green bells are increasing in Sinaloa and Sonora; reds will remain limited for another couple of weeks. Quality is very good. MFC and Markon Essentials® (ESS) Green and Red Bell Peppers are available.



blackberries

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

Expect comparable markets through mid-January. The bulk of shipments will come from Mexico. California volume is declining. Quality is very good: berries are plump and juicy.



blueberries

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

Prices are steady. Volume continues to climb in Central Mexico; Baja supplies will remain tight until new crops are harvested in January. Quality is very good: size is large and flavor is sweet yet tangy.

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broccoli

The market is up. Persistently low temperatures are keeping yields low in the Arizona/California desert region and Mexico. Quality is fair; head size is small and mildew is an occasional issue. MFC Broccoli is sporadic; Markon Best Available® (MBA) Broccoli is being substituted as necessary.

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



cantaloupe

Prices are elevated now that the offshore season is underway. Quality is good, but there is a potential for bruising due to increased shipping time. Sugar levels range between 10 and 14 Brix.

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



cauliflower

The market is high. Stocks tight in the Arizona/California desert region; recurring cold weather is hindering growth. Quality is below average throughout the industry; small size and discoloration are problems. ESS Cauliflower is sporadic; packer label is being substituted as needed.

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



celery

Despite multiple areas harvesting, **expect elevated prices into January**. California stocks are tight, while the Florida season is just getting started; production will ramp up in early January. MFC Celery is available.

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



chile peppers

Markets are steady to slightly higher. Florida growers are now shipping most varieties. Volume is starting to inch up in mainland Mexico. Quality ranges from good to very good. MFC Anaheim, Jalapeno, Pasilla, and Serrano Chiles are on the market.

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



cucumbers

Prices are level. The Florida season has ended. Offshore supplies are on the market; volume will rise by early January. Cooler weather has delayed growth in mainland Mexico (into Nogales, Arizona); large sizes are tight. MFC and ESS Cucumbers are available.

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



grapes

The California season is ending; **markets are climbing**. Delays are being reported in offshore arrivals; tight supplies are forecast through the month of January.

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

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green leaf

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

Despite continued cold weather, markets are weaker as supplies are picking up and getting closer to meeting demand. 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	///	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are high. The Mexican season will end in early January. The offshore season is underway; these markets are generally higher than those for 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	///	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are easing a bit; volume is starting to climb despite cold weather. Quality is good; epidermal blister and peel is being observed in some lots due to lettuce ice events. MFC Premium Iceberg Lettuce is sporadic due to low weights; MBA is being packed as needed.



lemons

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

Prices are unchanged. California supplies are ample; small- and medium-size fruit are most abundant. Seedless lemons are also available in the California desert region. MFC and ESS Lemons are available.



limes

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

The market is steady to slightly higher. Supplies will tighten through the end of the year; 110- and 150-count sizes are ample. Quality is good; light color, styler, and scarring are minor issues. MFC and ESS Limes are available.



onions

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

Expect stable prices through the new year. Northwest quality is excellent; stocks possess solid, globe-like shape, and firm texture. Mexican supplies 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	///	*****	\$\$\$

The market is level. The Navel season is fully underway; supplies are plentiful. Small sizes dominate the crop. MFC and ESS Navel Oranges are on the market.



pears

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

The market is stable. Washington and Oregon D'Anjou pears will be available through August. Washington Bartlett supplies will be depleted by the end of January; quality is beginning to decline in remaining stocks. MFC Pears are readily available.

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pineapples

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

Prices are unchanged; supplies are adequate. 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	///	*****	\$\$\$

The market is level; stocks are sufficient. Quality is very good. MFC Red and Yellow Idaho Red and Yellow Potatoes are available.



potatoes

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

Prices are forecast to remain steady over the next few weeks. Adverse weather conditions and shortened holiday packing schedules have limited supplies; however, demand is weak due to diminished retail orders. Norkotahs dominate Idaho pack outs. Burbank stocks are expected to increase in January. MFC Burbank and Norkotah Potatoes are available in Idaho and Washington.



raspberries

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

The market is high. Volume will fall for the next week or so before it starts to climb in the new year, peaking in April. Quality ranges from good to very good: berries are sweet and plump.



romaine

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

Despite continued cold weather, prices are weaker as supplies are picking up and getting closer to meeting demand. Quality is very good; fringe burn is being trimmed at harvest. MFC Premium Romaine Lettuce is being packed regularly.



salads & blends

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

The market is fairly steady. Cold weather is reducing head weights in Yuma, Arizona, but overall volume is increasing. Markon's Quality Assurance team continues to monitor quality and processing for the best packs.

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spring mix

Stocks are increasing, but cold weather continues to impact overall volume. Low temperatures are slowing growth. Ready-Set-Serve Arugula, Spinach, and Spring Mix is sporadic.

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



squash

The market is weak. Supplies are plentiful in South Florida and Sinaloa, Mexico (into Nogales, Arizona). Quality is very good. MFC Yellow and Zucchini Squash is available.

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



strawberries

Prices are elevated; California volume is low. Stocks from Florida and Mexico are being used to supplement orders; markets in these regions are starting to inch down as production moves into full swing. Florida MFC Strawberries are now shipping. California MFC Strawberries are sporadic; packer label will be substituted when needed.

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



tomatoes

The market is lower. Florida Roma and round stocks are rebounding. Volume will climb in January when growers move into fields replanted after the hurricanes (including grape tomatoes). Growers will start production in Naples next week. Mexican suppliers are moving to Culiacan, Guasave, and La Cruz; stocks will increase. Quality will greatly improve in new crop fruit. MFC Tomatoes are sporadic; packer label will be shipped as needed.

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



tree fruit

California stone fruit is not available. Nectarine, peach, and plum stocks will become available when the Chilean season starts in mid-January.

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



watermelon

Elevated markets persist; stocks will remain limited until offshore volume rises. Supplies are extremely tight 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 do you think will be 2023's trendiest produce items?

A

As the world gets smaller, I feel the exotic fruits and vegetables will really take hold in North America. For example, just look at how yuzu is increasing in familiarity. I believe this trend will continue with more colorful, deeply flavorful items from global regions going viral.



Yuzu has extremely sour, bitter flavor with herby, floral notes and thick citron-like rinds.



Use this Asian citrus fruit to accent poultry, salad dressings, curry pastes, and desserts.

TIPS FOR SERVING SWEET POTATOES:



- 1.** Mash boiled sweet potatoes with hot cream, butter, and brown sugar; top with chopped pecans and crumbled bacon.
- 2.** Offer sweet potato fries as an alternative to regular fries.
- 3.** These tubers make delicious pies and tarts; pair with spicy maple or honey.

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.

Winter Barley Salad

This hearty grain salad gets umami from mushrooms, sweetness from Kabocha squash, and bright notes from lemon. Serve warm for cold months or chilled when it starts to heat up.

- 1/4 C Olive oil (split)
- 1 C Markon First Crop Mushrooms, chopped
- 2 C Wild mushrooms
- 1/4 C RSS Peeled Garlic, chopped
- 1 T RSS Lemon Juice
- 1 C Kabocha squash, chopped and roasted
- 3 C Pearled barley, cooked
- 1 oz. Pumpkin sprouts
- 1 tsp. Kosher salt
- 1/4 tsp. Black pepper
- 4 oz. Manchego cheese, grated

Heat half of the oil in a large skillet. Saute white mushrooms until browned; reserve. Heat remaining oil and saute wild mushrooms and garlic until browned; deglaze with lemon juice.

In a large mixing bowl, combine both mushroom mixtures, roasted Kabocha, barley, pumpkin sprouts, salt, pepper, and cheese.

Toss to combine and serve warm or cold.

A dream crostini appetizer for gluten-free diners, these sweet potato rounds are topped with a variety of flavors and textures, making it a scrumptious bite.

