



# FRESH CROP REPORT

WEEK OF DECEMBER 14, 2025

**RSS**



Table-ready fruits  
& vegetables.  
Backed by 5-Star.

**MFC**



Whole fresh fruits &  
vegetables.  
Backed by 5-Star.

**ESS**

MARKON  
**ESSENTIALS**

Whole fresh fruits &  
vegetables.  
Backed by 5-Star.

# HIGHLIGHTS

## STRAWBERRIES

Prices are declining in all growing regions. Volume is increasing in Florida and Mexico (into South Texas). California's Santa Maria and Oxnard regions are rebounding from recent rain.

## POLAR VORTEX

A polar vortex is moving through the Midwest and the East Coast this week, impacting weather patterns across the country. There are currently no concerns for Florida-grown crops, as the projected temperatures are not expected to have major effects on crop growth.

## BRUSSELS SPROUTS

Prices remain elevated due to extremely limited supplies; quality issues are severely impacting yields.



## TOMATOES

- Supply is meeting demand as multiple regions are being harvested in Florida and Mexico.
- The lack of significant cyclonic weather activity this past fall (in Florida and Western Mexico) will positively influence tomato production transitions in December.

## BELL PEPPERS

- Western green bell pepper harvesting is transitioning from California to Mexico; Florida production remains stable.
- Red bell pepper markets are elevated; cool autumn weather is reducing supplies.

## GREEN ONIONS

- Pricing is elevated due to lower availability while desert growing regions recover from recent rainstorms.
- Seasonal labor shortages may also affect yields throughout the holiday season.

# FRESH CROP REPORT

WEEK OF DECEMBER 14, 2025



## apples

A slight market increase is forecast for small-size Washington Gala and Red Delicious varieties as these crops are dominated by larger sizes. Quality is excellent; sugar levels range from 15 to 18 Brix. MFC Gala, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, Fuji, and Red Delicious Apples are available.

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



## asparagus

Prices for small sizes are level; markets are a bit higher for jumbo and extra-large packs. Peruvian imports are shipping to the East Coast. MFC Asparagus is available out of Baja, Mexico; packer label is being substituted if needed.

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



## avocados

Markets are weak. Mexican volume is high. Supplies are adequate in California and Peru. Quality is very good; flavor is mildly nutty and texture is creamy. RSS Chunks, Halves, Pico de Gallo Guacamole, Authentic Chunky Guacamole, and Pure Pulp are available.

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



## bell peppers green/red

Green bell prices are average. Western green bell pepper harvesting is transitioning from California to Mexico; Florida production remains stable. Red bell pepper markets are elevated; cool autumn weather is reducing supplies. MFC and ESS Green and Red Bell Peppers are available.

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



## blackberries

The market is unchanged. Mexican stocks are ample. Quality is very good; softness and bruising are occasional issues.

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



## blueberries

Prices are steady. Yields are high in both Mexico and Peru. Quality is very good; berries are plump and subtly sweet.

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



# FRESH CROP REPORT



broccoli

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

The market has stabilized; Arizona-California desert supplies continue to increase. Production is also underway in Georgia, North Carolina, Florida, and Mexico. MFC Broccoli Crowns are available.



cantaloupe

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

Prices have eased. Guatemalan supplies are arriving into U.S. ports. Quality is very good; expect mildly sweet flavor and consistent sugar levels, mostly in the 12-14% Brix range.



cauliflower

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
AZ-CA	///	*****	\$\$\$
EAST COAST	///	*****	\$\$\$

The market is easing; volume is rising in the Arizona-California desert growing region and on the East Coast. Quality is good; mildew and mold, as well as brown bead and general discoloration, are possible issues due to recent damp conditions. ESS Cauliflower is available.



celery

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

Strong demand and tight California stocks are holding up prices. The Arizona-California desert and Florida seasons will get underway in the next week or two, increasing overall volume. Quality is average; pith and disease pressure are minor problems. MFC Celery is available.



chile peppers

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

Elevated markets persist, but relief is expected over the next few weeks, especially for Serrano prices. Growers are harvesting in Mexico's Baja and Sonora regions. MFC Anaheim, Habanero, Jalapeno, Poblano, Red Fresno, and Serrano Chile Peppers are available.



cucumbers

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

Prices are poised to rise over the next two weeks. Florida-grown cucumbers are decreasing for the winter months. Honduran imports will start shipping in late December. Demand is shifting west towards Mexico. MFC and ESS Cucumbers are available.



grapes

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

Elevated markets persist. California-grown fruit is shipping from storage. The offshore Peruvian and Chilean seasons will start over the next few weeks. MFC and ESS Green and Red Seedless Grapes as well as MFC Lunch Bunch Grapes are available.

# FRESH CROP REPORT



green leaf

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

Prices are weak. Supplies are increasing in the Arizona-California desert region. Weights are up as favorable weather is promoting growth. MFC Green Leaf Lettuce is sporadic; Markon Best Available (MBA) is being substituted as necessary.



honeydew

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

The Mexican market has eased; growers are shipping into Nogales, Arizona. Guatemalan supplies are arriving into U.S. ports; prices are a bit higher. Quality is very good; expect mildly sweet flavor and consistent sugar levels, mostly in the 12-13% Brix range.



iceberg

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

Prices continues to inch down; volume is rising in the Arizona-California desert region. Weights are increasing as favorable weather promotes growth. MFC Iceberg Lettuce is sporadic; MBA is being substituted as necessary.



lemons

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

The market is up. California stocks are average, but demand is strong. Quality is very good. MFC and ESS Lemons are available.



limes

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

The market remains high. Expect tight supplies through the new year as holiday demand is strong. Growers are seeing an increase in skin breakdown and oil spots, with occasional stylar from past rain. MFC and ESS Limes are available.



onions

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

Prices for reds and yellows are steady; white markets are slightly higher as volume is winding down. The Idaho and Oregon seasons will end in mid- to late April. Production will start in Mexico by mid-April. MFC and ESS Red and Yellow Onions are available.



oranges

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

The California Navel market is stable; supplies are sufficient. Flavor is sweet. MFC and ESS Valencia Oranges are available.



pears

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

The Washington market is up. Anjou supplies are meeting demand, while the Bartlett season is starting to wind down. Quality is good; sugar levels range from 14 to 17 Brix. MFC Washington Bartlett and Anjou Pears will ship through January.

# FRESH CROP REPORT



## pineapples

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

Prices are unchanged. Costa Rican stocks are adequate. Quality is very good; sugar spotting is an occasional issue. Sugar levels are reported as 13.5 Brix. RSS Pineapple Chunks and Spears are available.



## red/yellow potatoes

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
CO	///	*****	\$\$\$
ID	///	*****	\$\$\$
MI	///	*****	\$\$\$
ND	///	*****	\$\$\$
WA	///	*****	\$\$\$
WI	///	*****	\$\$\$

Red and yellow markets are level. Volume is average in most regions, but red B grades and No. 2s are limited in Michigan. Quality is very good; red supplies are exhibiting occasional skinning, while yellows may possess light bruising. MFC Red and Yellow Potatoes are available.



## potatoes

REGION	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	PRICE
CO	///	*****	\$\$\$
ID	///	*****	\$\$\$
NV	///	*****	\$\$\$
WA	///	*****	\$\$\$
WI	///	*****	\$\$\$

Prices are low. Idaho Norkotahs are shipping out of storage. Expect excellent quality with good skin set. MFC Idaho Burbank and Norkotah Potatoes are available.



## raspberries

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

The market is steady; stocks are plentiful. Mexican quality is very good; fruit is firm with red bold color.



## romaine

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

Prices are inching down. Supplies are increasing in the Arizona-California desert region. Weights are up as favorable weather is promoting growth. MFC Romaine Lettuce is sporadic; MBA is being substituted as necessary.



## salads & blends

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

The market is level. Stocks continue to increase in the Arizona-California desert area. Weights are increasing due to ideal weather. All varieties are being packed.

# FRESH CROP REPORT



## spring mix

Prices are unchanged. Yields are increasing in the Arizona-California desert region. Weights are increasing due to ideal weather. Quality is very good. RSS Arugula, Spinach, and Spring Mix are available.

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



## squash

The market is low. Mexican growers are harvesting in multiple regions, flooding the market. This may prompt suppliers to skip some fields and cause shortages later this month. East Coast growers are harvesting sufficient supplies in Florida. MFC Zucchini and Yellow Squash are available.

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



## tomatoes

The market is steady. Mexican production is undergoing its seasonal transition. Volume is diminishing in Baja. Supplies are average in Central Mexico. Initial shipments from Culiacán have started; however, most growers are not expected to harvest for another week or so. East Coast stocks are sufficient in Florida. MFC Tomatoes are available.

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



## tree fruit

The offshore Chilean tree fruit season will start in mid-January.

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



## strawberries

Prices are declining in all growing regions. Volume is increasing in Florida and Mexico (into South Texas). California's Santa Maria and Oxnard regions are rebounding from recent rains. MFC Strawberries are sporadic.

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



## watermelon

Markets have stabilized. Growers are shipping from Mexico and Guatemala; small sizes are most plentiful. Quality is very good; sugar levels range from 8 to 10 Brix.

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  
ADAM WALKOVER  
MARKON MEMBER CHEF

Q

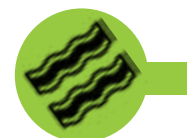
December holidays are a time of true celebration. What are some of your favorite appetizers for these special meals?

A

Holidays, no matter what you celebrate, always bring people together around food.



I love to explore food and cultures from around the world.



My favorites range from grazing charcuterie boards and mezze platters from the Mediterranean to old family favorites like country ham and biscuits with my grandpa's homemade pepper jelly.



# TIPS FOR SERVING RSS PEELED 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.** Blend buttermilk, Worcestershire sauce, mayonnaise, chives, blue cheese, RSS Peeled Garlic, and RSS Lemon Juice; use to dress green or fruit salads.
- 3.** Combine sliced MFC Cucumbers, chopped RSS Peeled Garlic, MFC Baby Dill, and plain yogurt; serve with pita bread.

# 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.

## Lamb Shanks with Mashed Potato and Celeriac

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

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 1/4 C   | Canola oil                                   |
| 1 C     | RSS Diced Yellow Onions                      |
| 1 C     | MFC Mushrooms, diced                         |
| 2 T     | RSS Peeled Garlic, minced                    |
| 3       | MFC Bay Leaves                               |
| 1 tsp.  | Kosher salt & 1/4 tsp. black pepper          |
| 4       | Lamb shanks                                  |
| 2 C     | Red wine                                     |
| 3 C     | Lamb or beef stock                           |
| 1 lb.   | MFC Potatoes, peeled and boiled until tender |
| 1/2 lb. | Celeriac, peeled and boiled until tender     |
| 1/4 C   | Unsalted butter                              |
| 1/2 C   | Buttermilk                                   |
| 1 tsp.  | Kosher salt & 1/4 tsp. black pepper          |
| 1/4 C   | Roasted garlic, mashed                       |

Preheat oven to 325° F. Sauté onions, mushrooms, and garlic in oil until browned. Season lamb shanks with salt and pepper and add to same pot; brown. Add onion mixture and bay leaves to pot; heat five minutes with shanks. Deglaze with wine. When most of the wine has cooked off, add one cup of stock and place in oven. Cook for one hour, then add more stock (being sure pot is never dry). Cook another hour; add final cup of stock. Simmer until meat is tender. Add boiled potatoes, celeriac, butter, buttermilk, salt, pepper, and roasted garlic to large mixer. Beat until smooth. Serve one lamb shank per person over dollop of mashed potato/celeriac.

Add intense flavor to roasted meats, salad dressing, and vegetable side dishes with what many chefs call their secret weapon.

