

Product Condition Alert

April 18th, 2019

We have begun the transition of our lettuce and row crop sourcing, departing from the Yuma desert back into The Golden State of California. We are also transitioning from imports to domestic commodities as our seasons change to favorable growing conditions.

During this time, the industry leaders are preparing for an overall drop of quality with rising prices in regards to all row crops including **Lettuces and leafy items, Cabbage, Celery, Grapes and all Stone Fruit.**

The lettuce and leafy item defects being reported include puffiness, mechanical issues, misshapen heads, twisted and brittle ends. The tender leaf market is struggling with minimal yellowing and bruising. Also expect a smaller size of whole head leafy crops.

Celery prices continue to escalate and currently exist at its highest cost in previous weeks. Production beginning in Oxnard/Santa Maria is fair at best. Demand exceeds supply and we expect this to continue throughout the month of April at a minimum. Common defects here are mechanical, pith and browning.

Storage crops continue to be utilized to fill demand but quality will continue to be a challenge as we continue transitioning. Early signs of decay, soft fruit, smaller sizes and dark colors are being reported. Market prices continue to slowly climb.

We will keep you informed so that you may prepare your menus accordingly, as we work through the challenges our industry faces this time each year.