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Market Alerts

TOMATOES Supplies of **Round and Roma Tomatoes** continue to slowly improve from earlier crop damage in Florida and Mexico. While pricing remains higher than normal on most fresh tomatoes, it's lower than in prior weeks, and quality has improved to fair. **6x6 and smaller Round Tomatoes** are the best value.

ORANGES The severe shortage of **Oranges** has reached the point where certain sizes are largely unavailable. Orders for **113 CT, 138 CT and 163 CT** fruit are very likely to be shorted, or substituted with an **88 CT or larger size**. We recommend **88 CT, 72 CT or larger Oranges** be used through the end of the **Navel** season in early spring.

BROCCOLI Broccoli supplies are slowly increasing from all growing regions. Cauliflower supplies are finally back to a normal level. Both markets are adjusting lower.

ASPARAGUS All sizes of **Asparagus** are more expensive than normal, due to growing area transitions in Peru and Mexico. Quality is fair, with some tip seeding and splitting reported.

STRAWBERRIES Cold and rain in Florida continue to impact quality and supplies. Softness and short shelf life are reported, and pricing may be higher. **Blueberries, Raspberries and Blackberries** are all better quality options.

TENDER LEAF LETTUCE We are still struggling with supplies of Organic baby spinach, conventional baby spinach, and cello spinach. Quality issues such as yellowing and mildew are a problem. This has decreased raw product yields for processors and creating shortages.

A Peek at Peak Seasons

Chili Peppers: Jalapeño, Pablano, Anaheim and Serrano peppers are all in great quality and availability.

Colored Potatoes: Washington, Idaho, Wisconsin and North Dakota are all at peak season on Reds, White and Gold potatoes.

Pears: Washington's winter season is producing great Bosc, Bartlett, D'Anjou and Red Pears.

Kale: Green, Tuscan and Flowering Kale are all great quality, good coloring and full bunches.

Mushrooms: Seasonal mushrooms such as Enoki, Hedgehog and Oyster are great winter menu additions. Ask your distributor for recommendations and availability.

Winter Citrus: Blood Oranges, Tangelos, Mandarins and Clementines are all available – be sure to ask your distributor for recommendations!

Winter Squash: Hard Squash varieties such as Kabocha, Butternut, Acorn and Spaghetti are in good supply.

Weather Update

California: The heavy rainfall from last week has finished, and temperatures will warm back up to seasonal levels.

Mexico / Yuma, AZ: Seasonal temperatures in the central regions, cooler temps in the north, normal precipitation.

Florida: Cooler temperatures persist throughout Florida, with possible frost in the northern half of the state at the beginning of the week.



Commodities at a Glance

 APPLES	Pricing and quality are good	 CELERY	Quality and pricing are good	 LETTUCE LEAF	Quality and pricing are good
 ASPARAGUS	Quality is fair, pricing is very high	 CITRUS (LEMONS)	Quality is good, pricing may be higher on certain sizes	 LETTUCE TENDER LEAF	Quality is fair, pricing is higher
 AVOCADO	Pricing remains much higher than normal, quality is good to fair	 CITRUS (LIMES)	Quality and pricing are good	 MELON (CANTALOUPE)	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BELL PEPPERS	Quality is good, pricing is slightly higher	 CITRUS (ORANGES)	Quality is good, sizes are running large, pricing is higher	 MELON (HONEYDEW)	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BERRIES (BLACKBERRIES)	Quality and pricing are good	 CUCUMBERS	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 MELON (WATERMELON)	Quality is fair, pricing is good
 BERRIES (BLUEBERRIES)	Quality and pricing are good	 EGGPLANT	Quality and pricing are good	 ONIONS	Quality and pricing are good
 BERRIES (RASPBERRIES)	Quality and pricing are good	 GARLIC	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 PEARS	Quality and pricing are good
 BERRIES (STRAWBERRIES)	Quality is poor, pricing is higher	 GRAPES (GREEN)	Quality is good, pricing is fair	 PINEAPPLES	Quality and pricing are good
 BROCCOLI	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 GRAPES (RED)	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 POTATOES	Quality is good, pricing is higher on medium sizes
 BRUSSELS SPROUTS	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 GREEN ONIONS	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 POTATOES (COLORED)	Quality and pricing are good
 CARROTS	Quality is good, pricing is slightly higher	 KALE	Quality and pricing are good	 SQUASH	Quality is good, pricing is slightly higher
 CAULIFLOWER	Quality and pricing are good	 LETTUCE ICEBERG	Quality and pricing are good	 TOMATOES	Quality is fair, pricing is higher

