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QUALITY FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLES

COMMODITY ALERT – 12/9/17

TOMATOES

Round Tomatoes have reached the critical point expected following the damage caused by Hurricane Irma. The Palmetto/Ruskin area of Florida is harvesting less than 10% of normal early December production. The Immokalee growing area in Florida is two weeks away from beginning to harvest. When they do begin, that product will be light in color and go in to ripening rooms for a few more days than usual, some growers speculating 7-8 days. With the pipeline being empty up until that point, it will take time for there to be steady supplies.

Roma tomatoes have now tripled in price as some users had switched to romas due to the round shortage. Grape and cherry tomatoes have followed and increased significantly in the past few days as customers look for different tomato items to use for various applications to fill the shortage. The next 2 weeks will be the most critical until more tomatoes become available out of Mexico and then Immokalee Florida gets going. We expect the market to remain in extreme conditions until at least more supplies enter the pipeline.

AVOCADOS

Due to the continued closures of several packing sheds in Mexican growing regions, avocados have become increasingly difficult to source. These closures are the result of a political decision made by the board of elected growers in Mexico. Due to the nature of these closures, domestic marketing companies have no control over supply and no way to influence the re-opening of these facilities.

As a result, we are anticipating a steady increase in prices at the border over the next several weeks, despite the Ministers of Agriculture for Mexico attempts to resolve these political issues. There is currently no timetable for a resolution. We will do everything possible to provide a steady supply of avocados and appreciate your patience during this challenging time.