

the Source +



Market Alerts

TRANSITION The movement of Western growing regions from the Yuma, Arizona area back north to Central California is in progress. "Transition", as this movement is called, normally lasts from March to early May, and often comes with more frequent quality and availability issues. Affected crops may include lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, berries and more. Be sure to read The Source Plus each week for up-to-date recommendations.

LETTUCE Quality continues to be fair on Iceberg and Romaine products. Consider using Green Leaf Lettuce as a substitute.

GRAPES The Chilean grape season is approaching its end, and quality is beginning to decline on both Red and Green Grapes, with Reds being the better value.

STRAWBERRIES Central California growing conditions continue to slowly improve. Quality is fair to good, with the most common quality issue now being white shoulders (under-ripe areas around the stem). Pricing may be higher in certain markets.

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.

LIMES Persistent rain in southern Mexico's lime-growing areas has slowed harvesting and impacted fruit size. **Large (175 CT and bigger) limes** are very limited, and pricing is much higher than normal on those sizes. **Smaller (200 CT) size fruit**, purchased in full cases where possible, will be the best value.

A Peek at Peak Seasons

Squash: Yellow and Zucchini Squash are in very good supply, with great pricing and quality reported.

Tomatoes: Mexico and Florida's early spring harvests are very strong. Supplies of Round, Roma and Grape Tomatoes are plentiful and quality is very good for this time of year.

Ramps: This wild onion with a pungent flavor grows during a very short season in early to mid-spring. Ask your distributor for availability.

Fiddlehead Ferns: Another spring crop with a short season, this tightly wound vegetable has a taste and texture similar to asparagus. Ask your distributor for availability.

Asparagus: Quality and pricing are very good on all sizes of Asparagus. Locally grown product may be available in select markets.

Spring Pears: D'Anjou, Red and Bosc Pears are in good supply out of Washington, with very good quality reported.

Bell Peppers: Harvests of Red, Green and Colored Bell Peppers are abundant in all growing regions. Quality and pricing are very good.

Weather Update

California: Rain and cooler temperatures are expected throughout the Central and Southern growing regions.

Mexico: Seasonal temperatures across most of the country, with rain in the Central region.

Florida: Moderate to heavy rainfall with seasonal temperatures across most of the state.



Commodities at a Glance

 APPLES	Quality and pricing are good	 CELERY	Quality and pricing are good	 LETTUCE LEAF	Quality is fair; pricing is higher on Romaine. Green Leaf is the best value.
 ASPARAGUS	Quality and pricing are good	 CITRUS (LEMONS)	Quality and pricing are good	 LETTUCE TENDER LEAF	Quality and pricing are good
 AVOCADO	Quality is good, pricing is fair	 CITRUS (LIMES)	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 MELON (CANTALOUPE)	Quality is good, pricing is slightly higher
 BELL PEPPERS	Quality and pricing are good	 CITRUS (ORANGES)	Quality is good, sizes are running large, pricing is higher	 MELON (HONEYDEW)	Quality is good, pricing is slightly higher
 BERRIES (BLACKBERRIES)	Quality and pricing are good	 CUCUMBERS	Quality and pricing are good	 MELON (WATERMELON)	Quality and pricing are good
 BERRIES (BLUEBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing may be higher	 EGGPLANT	Quality and pricing are good	 ONIONS	Quality and pricing are good
 BERRIES (RASPBERRIES)	Quality is fair, pricing is good	 GARLIC	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 PEARS	Quality and pricing are good
 BERRIES (STRAWBERRIES)	Quality is fair, pricing may be higher	 GRAPES (GREEN)	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 PINEAPPLES	Quality and pricing are good
 BROCCOLI	Quality and pricing are good	 GRAPES (RED)	Quality is fair, pricing is good	 POTATOES	Quality is good, pricing is higher. 90 CT and smaller sizes are the best value.
 BRUSSELS SPROUTS	Quality and pricing are good	 GREEN ONIONS	Quality and pricing are good	 POTATOES (COLORED)	Quality and pricing are good
 CARROTS	Quality is good, pricing is slightly higher	 KALE	Quality and pricing are good	 SQUASH	Quality and pricing are good
 CAULIFLOWER	Quality and pricing are good	 LETTUCE ICEBERG	Quality is fair, pricing is good	 TOMATOES	Quality and pricing are good

