



## FRESH PICKS



The Salinas growing region is experiencing increased heat and pest pressure, creating challenges for several key commodities. **Brussels sprouts, cilantro, broccoli, and cauliflower** are seeing elevated pest issues, while **iceberg lettuce** is facing additional pressure from a virus. As a result, these commodities are expected to experience tight market conditions and rising prices over the next several weeks.

We typically do not see pest pressure at this level until late September or October, making these challenges earlier than normal. The next two months are expected to be challenging, and we will continue working closely with you to make recommendations, identify alternatives when needed, and help navigate supply and pricing changes.

## REMINDER



We will be observing **normal business hours** on Labor Day (Monday, September 7th). Our Sales Office will be open from 8am - 5pm, and pre-cuts will need to be ordered by 3pm. **Deliveries will follow normal schedules.**

## IN SEASON!



Bell Peppers



Grapes



Tomatoes



## Fruit Update

**Apples:** School demand is putting some pressure on **apples**. Prices and supplies are firming up for **Fujis, Pinks, Reds,** and **Granny Smiths**. Meanwhile, **Honeycrisp** is steady with more crop underway. Fruit continues to skew larger in size, making smaller sizes less available. Expect firm conditions and prices again for the week.

**Avocados:** **Avocados** continue coming from both California and Mexico. Market conditions are steady. Both supply and prices are similar to last week. The California season is coming to an end, but supply out of Mexico is holding steady. Expect similar conditions this week and into next.

**Berries:** **Blackberry** conditions are much of the same. The market is still soft as supply continues exceeding demand. Crop is currently coming from the Pacific Northwest. Prices are steady, and conditions are expected to be steady for this week and into next week.

The Pacific Northwest **blueberry** season is wrapping up, and all crop is expected to start coming from Mexico and Peru by early September. Until then, prices will hold firm, and quality is good. Expect steady conditions for the week. Prices may continue firming up as we transition into imported crop.

Both California's and Mexico's **raspberry** supplies have increased, keeping conditions steady. Supply is high, prices are soft, and quality is good. Expect steady conditions this week and into next week, too.

**Strawberry** demand continues exceeding supply. Furthermore, crop is experiencing a gap in production due to extreme heat in Salinas and Watsonville, and quality is fair. Conditions are expected to improve in another week with the start of the Baja season. Santa Maria should also start experiencing improved production next week, helping ease conditions.

**Citrus:** Conditions for **lemons** remain tight. Ventura and Oxnard are the current growing regions. Supply is down, leading to tight market conditions. Crop continues peaking in larger sizes, making smaller sizes hard to find. Expect firm prices yet again this week.

**Limes** are experiencing quality issues, and prices are firming up. Crop is currently coming from Mexico. We will most likely experience tighter conditions through early September as seasons transition, and we move into Peru's crop. Quality should improve in another week or two.

**Valencia oranges** are still the main variety available and continue peaking in larger sizes. Small sizes are limited and will most likely remain so for the remainder of the season, making prices firm. Quality continues to be poor, and firm market conditions are expected again this week.

**Grapes:** Both **red** and **green grapes** continue to have a great season. Crop is coming from California, and both varieties are excellent quality with firm prices. Expect good quality fruit for a good price point.

**Pears:** The Washington pear season has begun, and **bartletts** are in full production. Quality is good, and prices are firm.

**Melons:** **Cantaloupe** conditions are steady. Expect firm prices and good quality. Similarly, **honeydew** supplies and quality are also steady, and prices remain firm. Crop is currently coming from California.

**Tomatoes:** **Tomatoes** are coming from California and Mexico. Mexico is expected to increase production soon. Supply of all varieties is steady, and quality is good. Steady conditions are expected this week and into next.







## Vegetable Update

**Asparagus:** Mexico's **asparagus** supply is down significantly. Peru is also experiencing tight supply. Warm temperatures are affecting production and leading to poor quality. Market conditions are expected to remain tight for the next few weeks, and relief is not expected until fall.

**Bell Peppers:** **Bell peppers** are experiencing steady conditions again this week. The Bakersfield region continues providing good supply, and prices are holding firm. Crop is also peaking in larger sizes, but quality is good. Organics are in good supply, too. Prices are soft at the moment as supply is exceeding demand. Expect similar conditions for the week and into next.

**Broccoli & Cauliflower:** **Broccoli** supply is tightening this week. Crop is currently coming from Mexico and Salinas. Salinas fields have been affected by pest pressure. Quality is average, and prices are firming up due to lighter supply. Expect prices to be firm this week and into next due to low supply and quality issues.

**Cauliflower** is experiencing firm conditions this week. Crop continues to come from Mexico and the Central Valley. Similar to broccoli, fields in the Central Valley are experiencing pest pressure, leading to lower supply and tighter market conditions.

**Brussel Sprouts:** **Brussel sprout** supply and production have been affected by Diamondback moths. Supply is down, and quality is poor. Expect tight conditions this week and into next week.

**Carrots:** **Carrots** are continuing to see steady, predictable conditions. The Bakersfield season is well underway, and we're continuing to see good sizing and strong availability. Prices are steady.

**Celery:** **Celery** supply has improved this week after some yields suffered from pest pressure. Quality was also impacted. Crop is currently coming from Salinas and Oxnard. Conditions are expected to be firm this week, but prices will lower as volume and quality recover.

**Cucumbers:** **Cucumber** production has slowed due to weather. Crop is currently coming from Baja, and prices are firm. Quality is good. Expect firm conditions this week and potentially into mid-September.

**Lettuces:** **Iceberg** is seeing tight conditions as fields are being affected by disease pressure. Additionally, the Salinas season is starting to wind down. Volume has been impacted significantly, and quality is extremely poor. Prices are elevated. We anticipate tight market conditions for several weeks.

**Romaine**, and **green and red leaf lettuces** are also being affected by disease pressure but not as intensely as we're seeing with iceberg. Expect firm prices for all varieties and poor quality. Expect tight conditions this week.

**Tender leaf lettuce** supplies are experiencing steady conditions. Crop is currently coming from Oxnard, Yuma, and Mexico. Prices are firm, and quality is good. Expect steady conditions for the week.

**Onions & Potatoes:** California and New Mexico are currently the primary growing regions for **onions**. For now, conditions are firm, and prices are elevated due to strong demand and lower supply. Crop is leaning toward smaller sizes, making larger sizes more scarce.

**Potatoes** are still experiencing firm conditions. Crop is peaking in medium sizes, and large sizes are beginning to tighten. Quality is good.





### MELON SALSA

Quick Directions: Dice watermelon, cantaloupe, and honeydew. Toss with diced cucumber, lime juice, fresh mint, and a pinch of salt. Serve chilled with tortilla chips or alongside grilled meats.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The word “cantaloupe” comes from the Italian town of Cantalupo, where the melon was reportedly cultivated.

### PRODUCE TRIVIA

What favorite summer fruit, often sliced, is actually a type of berry?



Answer revealed next week!

Answer to last week's riddle: Melons grow on vines, come in all shapes and sizes, and can be orange, green, yellow, or white on the inside.

### STORAGE TIP OF THE WEEK

Keep grapes unwashed and refrigerated until you're ready to eat them. Washing adds moisture, which can encourage spoilage. Try to store grapes in their original ventilated container to allow airflow and help prevent moisture buildup.

**For updated prices and availability, contact us at**

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**or**

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