

Februar 5, 2010

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Weather:

The West Coast will have partly cloudy skies in the daytime with a 20 percent chance of rain for the rest of the week. Over the next few weeks, we will see the effects of the rainfall on row crop items. Daytime temperatures in the growing regions are expected to be in the mid 50s on a high with lows ranging in the mid 40s. Winds are expected to be on the light side.

Yuma, Arizona will have a chance of showers on Wednesday. For all other days, forecasts call for partly sunny skies with temperatures in the low 70s and lows reaching the low 50s. Winds are expected to be moderate in the growing regions

South Florida is expecting rainfall on Monday and Tuesday. The following days have mostly sunshine in the forecast until Friday where more rain is expected. Temperatures will be in the mid-70s and there will be some windy conditions in isolated areas. The weekend calls for sunshine by Sunday.



Freight:

The availability of northbound trucks in California has lightened up a little from the previous two weeks; expect that to remain the same this week. Crude oil prices are currently at \$77.18. The National Average on diesel remained steady at 2.781 down 5.2 cents from last Monday!

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lighter in volume when they do come back in. Colored bell supplies from Mexico also remain lighter.

BERRIES

Strawberries: Rain is forecasted to start again Thursday/Friday of this week and could further result in a decreased harvest and availability. The Valentine's Day pull for strawberries is in full swing. So far supplies have been able to keep up with demand. Markets are high but steady. Quality is being reported as good. The main issue still showing up in the packs are 10% to 20% white shoulder. Florida has started hitting a gap from the freeze they had a month ago. Volumes are very limited out of this area and will be for the next two weeks. Market has firmed up out of Florida. Mexico received rain earlier this week which has affect supplies crossing the boarder. Market is active.

Raspberries: Supplies are slowly increasing making the market slightly weaker. Quality is being reported as good. Driscoll is the main supplier at this time of the year.

Blackberries: Blackberry supplies are still limited with fair quality and firm market.

Blueberries: Blueberries are hitting a gap due to cool and rainy weather that Chile received the month of January. Quality of the blueberries over the last few weeks has been hit and miss and the growers are clamping down on the specs to make sure all fruit that goes out is good. The growers expect to rebound a little but not back up to volumes we had in the past few months. The next week and a half will be the lightest arrivals, and then we should see the slight rebound the week of February 15th. Market is very active with limited availability.

BROCCOLI

The market is steady. Supplies are good and many suppliers have come out at the beginning of the week very aggressive on bunch and crown product. Supplies look to be good throughout the week. The quality is strong, coming out of Santa Maria, Yuma, and Scottsdale. There is some product being harvested in Salinas.

CARROTS

California carrots coming out of Bakersfield are finally starting to size up and there is a little better supply of jumbo carrots.

CAULIFLOWER

This market is steady. Demand is light. Brown and black spotting as well as discoloration continues to be seen sporadically upon arrivals on this commodity. Past cold weather is the cause of this defect. Supplies will be good throughout the week.

CELERY

Product is more readily available on large sizing and pricing varies from 3-4 dollars compared to the smaller sizes. There are a few shippers having product in Yuma if Oxnard and Santa Maria is not desired. With Florida still recovering from the freeze, pressure will continue to be put on California production to pick up the slack. The best deal is on 24 count and deals can be made on volume orders.

CITRUS

Lemons: Supplies are good on 115's and larger, with 165's and especially 200's becoming tight. Quality is very good.

Limes: Rains in Mexico have lightened supplies this week. Sizes are peaking on 200's and 230's.

Oranges: Demand remains steady. Rain forecast for this weekend could keep supplies light. Crop continues to peak on fancy 72's, 56's and 88's. The supplies of choice grades remain tight.

CUCUMBERS

Western Cucumber:

Mainland Mexico production continues with steady supplies and looks to hold this way for the next 7 to 10 days.

GRAPES

Chilean flames have good availability but product continues to run small. Thompsons and Sugarones are in good supplies with product peeking to the medium and large size. There will be good supplies for the Valentines Day pull on red seedless. Good availability on the seeded Red Globe with excellent quality. Black seedless with better supplies and very good quality.

GREEN ONIONS

This market is steady. Supplies are on the light side out of Mexico but all orders are being filled. Demand has definitely been stronger

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these past few weeks and it looks to be strong throughout the week, as numbers will be light from Mexican production. Pencil sizes are still the largest volume available. The quality continues to be good with no significant problems to report. Processors have had minimal problems with the raw product available.

LEAF LETTUCE

The leaf market is steady. Red leaf continues to demand a higher price compared to other leaf items. Florida has started packing romaine. Romaine and romaine hearts continue to show some blister and epidermal peel from the cold temperature experienced last month out of Yuma. Quality has been average with tip burn and fringe burn showing up in some lots. Weather issues will inevitably cause quality issues towards the end of the week on all leaf items.

LETTUCE

The lettuce market is softer, with a variance in pricing by 2-3 dollars with different shippers. The quality has been good with weights in the 43-46 pound range. Florida has started production also. Suppliers are expecting stronger production numbers at the end of the week in Yuma. Rain is not expected for the rest of the week. Suppliers are looking to move bin lettuce, and deals can be made.

MELONS

Cantaloupe: Honduran fruit is limited and selling out by the end of the week. Getting orders on the books early will help to insure availability. Small fruit 15's and smaller are still extremely limited. Shipping points in Pompano Beach and Port Manatee, FL as well as Los Angeles, CA and Camden, NJ continue to receive fruit, but again sizes are mostly large. The prices remain at higher levels on the small size fruit. There are extremely limited supplies of Mexican cantaloupes crossing through the Nogales, AZ point of entry and quality is fair at best. Overall quality for the offshore fruit is still very good.

Honeydew: Product is extremely limited with the market rising. Offshore fruit is still arriving into Florida, California and New Jersey with volume supplies mainly in 5's and 6's. All sizes are limited at the end of this week out of Florida

with better supplies in California. Good supplies of honeydew out of Mexico and the quality is fair.

ONIONS

The Idaho/Oregon yellow onion market is lower and the demand remains light. The export demand remains but time will tell how it will influence the domestic pricing. For now it's not having any effect. Quality is still very nice and sizing remains heavy on jumbos and larger. Reds are steady however we are nearing the end of the storage season so be ready. Now is a good time to go heavier on reds. The white onion market is still in a demand exceeds supplies situation as Mexico is buying all they can although the market is lower.

POTATOES

The Idaho potato market is steady with light demand. Most shippers are still hungry for business & peaking between 70 and 90 counts depending on the variety. Quality is good with a few shippers reporting some light peepers. although many shippers will be done with Norkotahs by next week. Washington Norkotahs are going strong with good quality and availability but also light demand. Washington shippers are peaking on 60ct and larger. Colorado also has plentiful supplies, good quality, and light demand. Colorado is heavier to 70 & 80 count. Mount Vernon, Washington has good availability and excellent quality on red and Yukon-gold potatoes, while they are done with whites. North Dakota and Wisconsin have good supplies of red & yellow potatoes as well and are also light on whites. California packers have good supplies of reds, whites, and yellows. The California reds are peaking on A-size while the Yukon's and whites are heavier on B-size.

SQUASH

Western Squash:

Mexico production has slow due to rains. The cooler wet weather will slow and lighten production over the next 2 to 3 weeks. Yellow squash remains very short, and Italian will also lighten in availability.

Eastern Squash:

Domestic supplies of squash in Florida have been all but wiped out by the weekend freeze. Most Florida shippers are bringing yellow

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squash in out of the West just to try to cover. Yellow squash is extremely difficult to come by, demand is high and the quality is poor.

STONE FRUIT

Chilean peaches are still in good supply with very good quality. Demand still exceeds supply on the Nectarines. Both red and black Plums are limited but available.

TOMATOES

Eastern: The temperatures in Florida have stabilized but remain cooler than normal (but not freezing) and will continue into this week for the southern growing areas with a high of around mid 60's to low 70's. The damage the frost caused is becoming a bit clearer as growers have figured out that they will or will not get another harvest off the existing plants. There has been significant crop loss and supplies out of Florida will be down and won't rebound probably until spring. We can expect to see higher prices through the spring accompanied with the shortened supplies. Quality issues are appearing with some light spotting and some softer than normal fruit, but for the most part growers are doing a fair job packing decent fruit.

Western: Limited harvesting in Florida has increased interest in Nogales, but supplies are plentiful and what demand is there is not overbearing or exceeding supplies. There has surprisingly enough been a price decrease out of Nogales and San Diego. They are both certainly loaded on fruit with color, which is the primary reason for the price decreases that we are currently seeing. As the shippers clean up on the color they may try to take price back up (production and demand will dictate). The Roma market has become a little active probably due to some light rain that passed through northern Mexico. The tight item is currently cherry tomatoes.

WATERMELON

There is very little fruit coming in from Mexico and offshore sources. FOB's continue to rise on both seeded and seedless. The seeded being the shortest in supply as some shippers are no longer growing of them. Quality on the Mexican fruit is fair at best. The mini seedless are in better supply and quality is good.

VALUE ADDED

Chopped romaine and romaine blended items continue to experience brown and red discoloration on finished product. Suppliers are working diligently to use the best raw material available for the processing facilities. The cold weather Yuma Arizona has been experiencing has resulted in product having a shorter shelf life. The processed cauliflower has had a few issues on brown and black spotting. Again, processors are using the best product available.