

# FARMERS. MARKET UPDATE

FEBRUARY 16, 2021



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## FEATURED ITEM:



Honeydews

CODE: #6575  
PACK SIZE: 6/8 ct

## ! ALERTS

- BANANAS:** The entire banana industry is struggling with supplies due to Hurricane Eta and Iota in the fall. They caused major damage in several growing regions. After reviewing some of the grower's forecasts, we anticipate active markets and tight supply through

## MARKET AT A GLANCE:

**Blackberries:** Availability is still very limited. We should see a little better volume next week while the market remains firm.

**Blueberries:** Delays at the ports are still causing timely unloading. Mexican imports should see a slight increase towards the end of this week and into the next.

**Raspberries:** Availability will remain tight through next week. The market will remain firm.

**Peeled Garlic:** Supplies of peeled garlic from China continue to be very tight

## NOT AVAILABLE

- STEM STRAWBERRIES
- RED PLUM
- FAVA BEAN
- ENGLISH PEA
- SHELLED PEA
- APRICOTS
- STARFRUIT
- PUNTARELLE
- TANGERINES
- PERSIMONS
- SEVILLE ORANGES

## LIMITED ITEMS

- DRAGON FRUIT
- GOLD KIWI
- CORN
- WAX BEANS
- OLE FLAT BEANS

## NOW AVAILABLE:

- CASTLEFRANCO
- CUBANELLE PEPPER
- POMEGRANATE
- FLORIDA JUICE ORANGE
- CLEMENTINES
- CARA CARA ORANGE
- BLOOD ORANGES
- PEACH
- NECTARINE
- MEYER LEMONS

## WHAT'S IN OUR BACKYARD?



**APPLES** – Growers continue to pack Royal Gala, McIntosh, Empire, Cortland, Red Delicious as well as Ambrosia and Honey crisp out of controlled atmosphere storages. Gold Delicious are running out quickly and Royal Galas will last until March.

**CABBAGE** – Savoy, green and red cabbage continue here in Ontario.

**CARROT** – Demand for Ontario Carrots is strong and pricing remains high. We will be starting the transition to Mexican Carrots mid- February. Heirloom carrot supplies are still good and steady with pricing.

**ENGLISH CUCUMBERS** – Ontario grown cucumbers are getting better in supply. Ontario supplies will improve by the end of February while

Mexico is expected to have supply, but less than what we've seen recently.

**HOTHOUSE TOMATO** – Ontario tomato production is finished with vine tomato all that is in production that is local as it is under lights. By the first week of April, the Ontario season will be getting started.

**MUSHROOMS** – Mushrooms markets continue to be extremely active due to the high demand at retail. This will affect availability and quality on food service items, particularly button mushrooms.

**ONION** – Yellow cooking onions continue with good supply and quality.

**POTATO** – Potatoes are available in all colors (white, red and yellow). Mini B size are in good supply, while C sizes are finished. Large #1 chefs continue.

**WAX TURNIP (RUTABAGA)** – Ontario rutabaga continues with good supplies.

# VEGETABLES



## • ASPARAGUS

Expect to see lower prices and a lot of promotional activity at the retail level



## • BEANS

Quality is mostly good. Demand remains unchanged and is light. There are some wax and flat (pole) beans available this week.



## • BROCCOLI

The market will stay aggressive going into the weekend. Overall, the quality is good on both bunched and crowns.



## • BRUSSELS SPROUTS

Brussels sprout supplies continue to improve and the market is softening as we head into this week.



## • CAULIFLOWER

Market is starting some upward motion as suppliers are seeing excessive yellowing at the field level



## • CELERY

This market is steady. All sizing is available with 30ct having the best availability. The quality of this commodity continues to be above



## • CORN

Corn remains very active and supplies are unstable in Florida as volume has not improved yet out of Homestead. Volume to remain tight, in the coming weeks.



## • CUCUMBERS

Transition from Sonora to Sinaloa will result in a slight reduction in supplies.



## • EGGPLANT

Below normal supply is expected to continue out of Florida as a transition to newer blocks is underway.



## • GREEN ONIONS

Watch for this market to stay strong through the week.



## • LETTUCES

**ICEBERG** - Strong supplies are expected throughout this week. Weights are averaging 41-46 Pounds. Slight discoloration, and misshapen heads have been reported, but minimally. Quality has been very good. Expect competitive pricing throughout the week.



**ROMAINE / LEAF** - Romaine as well as green leaf will be plentiful throughout this week. Red leaf is the least of all the greens being harvested but there is plenty to fill all demand. Weights on romaine are averaging 34-37 pounds while green and red leaf are 20-23 pounds. Romaine hearts will be plentiful as well all week.



## • SPRING MIX, SPINACH & BABY KALE

Spring mix, baby arugula and baby spinach quality and supply levels are easily meeting demand. Quality has been good with occasional yellowing and bruising of the tender leaves.



## • CITRUS - LEMONS

The market is trending up and supplies are moving toward the limited side as Mexico is finished, leaving just California lemons. Watch the market in coming days as heavy rains are expected.



## • GRAPES

The imported grape market remains tight on both the east and west coasts, with continued vessel and container delays limiting availability.



## • LIMES

The lime market is getting active with current production region wrapping up for the season. The weather forecast was also showing rain



## • MELON

**CANTALOUPE** - Demand is good and markets are slightly lower but still strong. Availability on the east is good while the west remains challenging. **HONEYDEWS** - Demand has decreased slightly and markets have come off.



## • ORANGES

Navel demand has picked up over the past week. Pricing has been steady as the weather has been nice. Supplies on small sizes have become limited and expect to get worse as time goes on.

# WILD FORAGED PRODUCTS

BLACK TRUMPET: From Oregon

HEDGEHOG: From Oregon

YELLOWFOOT: From Oregon

BLUEFOOT: From France

CHANTERELLE MUSHROOMS: From Oregon

WINTER TRUFFLES: From Spain



## • ONIONS

Size profiles on all colors continue leaning toward heavier to larger sizes, which is expected to continue as the program continues for the next three months. The market still has a good chance.



## • PEPPERS

**GREEN** - Weak demand has led to some weakness in the markets. Florida continues to produce steady volume, but the weather from last week will have an impact in the upcoming weeks.

**RED** - We expect good volume and quality over the next week.



## • POTATOES

Strong yields on the storage crop offset lower output for early table potato crops. That may have shifted production more toward chip potato varieties.



## • ZUCCHINI

High winds and cold temperatures do not go well with zucchini, and this is what took place last week in Florida. There was freeze damage reported on some of the fields, so expect supply disruption in the upcoming weeks.



## • PINEAPPLES

Quality is reported as good, but the somewhat unstable weather of the previous days has been affecting the internal condition with some water spotting and ultraviolet radiation.



## • PEARS

There are good supplies of D'Anjou, Bosc, and red pears out of Washington and Oregon. The overall crop is smaller this season which will put pressure on supplies this year. Bartlett pears have finished for the season.



## • STONE FRUIT

Supply is limited on Chilean peaches, plums and nectarines due to shipping delays and unloading of vessel delays arriving at ports in Philadelphia and Los Angeles. Quality is good with steady pricing.



## • TOMATOES

Round tomato prices are easing due to increasing supplies in Florida and Mexico. The grape tomato market is much lower as well; yields are rising. Florida growers are back in production.



## • WATERMELON

Demand is good and markets are easing as supplies increase from Mexico, Florida and offshore.

 = Local options

# FRUITS



## • APPLES

MacIntosh, Empire and Red Delicious are in good supply. Royal Galas will start to wind down as we finish February, while Gold Delicious are essentially finished.



## • AVOCADOS

Historically, we see pricing slowly start to increase after the Super Bowl through the spring months, and we are beginning to see field prices stay consistent with that trend.



## • BERRIES

### BLUEBERRIES

While growers picked ahead, which will keep the market stable for at least the next 3 weeks, expectations are that we will see an early end to the import season and very light supply at the end of February.



### RASPBERRIES

Look for this market to remain very expensive with very limited supplies



### BLACKBERRIES

Demand exceeds supply. As with raspberries, and the cold in Mexico and rain is driving up the market on blackberries as less production is coming on.



### STRAWBERRIES

Valentine's Day demand is in full swing which has made all berry categories very tight out of California, Mexico and Florida.