



January 2nd, 2009

COMMODITY REPORT

APPLES/PEARS

No Change.

ASPARAGUS

No Change.

AVOCADO

- **Mexican fruit** – Supplies are steady crossing into the states. Demand is improving. **MARKET FIRMING**
- **Chilean Fruit** - Chilean fruit supplies are good. **MARKET STEADY**

BELL PEPPERS

Eastern Bells: The pepper market appears to be gaining some strength in recent days, particularly with the off grades. Quality is marginal at this time. Prices may rise at the front part of the week as suppliers try to recover from the sluggish market of the last few weeks.

BERRIES

- **Strawberries** No Change.
- **Raspberries** No Change. Blackberry production from Mexico is up to speed and product is abundant, with consistent transfers from Mexico and landing two to three times a week and Mexican product into Los Angeles. There is significantly more product and current fobs are reflecting it. There are a handful of shippers with very aggressively priced blackberries due to heavy deliveries. Reports of quality have been good. **MARKET LOWER**
- **Blueberries:** Blueberries are in good supply and will continue to be abundant for the foreseeable future. Now with vessels landing opposed to flown in product. we are seeing much more product arriving at once. This in turn is keeping fobs fairly aggressive and shippers are continuing at this point to receive good amounts. The majority of fruit landing currently is Chilean and reports of quality have been good. **MARKET LOWER.**

BROCCOLI

No Change.

CAULIFLOWER

No Change.

CITRUS

- **Lemon:** Supplies are very good on 95's thru 115's. Smaller sizes 165's and 200's are becoming a little tight. Quality and condition are good. **MARKET FIRMING ON SMALLER FRUIT**
- **Oranges:** Navel pack out is still light this week with a short work week. Size has shifted to bigger sizes; with 88's and smaller fruit are very tight. Quality is very good. **MARKET STEADY**

CUCUMBERS

Eastern Cucumbers: The cucumber market in Florida has softened as a result of the off shore product trickling into the ports. However, since some domestic supplies remain there exists a two tiered market with the lower prices and better quality found in the off shores. Anticipate the market to level out by the front of the week.



COMMODITY REPORT CONTINUED

GRAPES

There are still light supplies of California storage Crimson Red seedless grapes that will bridge the gap to next week with there will be better supplies of offshore fruit. The Crimsons are still being priced to finish the deal and surprisingly quality is still very good. There will be more Chilean grapes hitting both East and West coast ports beginning next week including Flame red seedless, and Perlette/ Sugarone/Prime green seedless. **MARKET STEADY**

LEAF LETTUCE

No Change.

LETTUCE

No Change.

MELONS

- **Cantaloupes:** Supplies of large sized offshore fruit from Guatemala will continue in good supply finishing this week and into next, and demand is only light. Decent supplies over the next 7-10 days will further ease the pressure and they will be more readily available. Although that is the case, Guatemala will finish picking their first cycle of fruit next week, paving the way for light supplies in week 3 of the New Year. Honduras will be the next area to import fruit, yet they are still about 2-3 weeks away from arrival. There are still very good supplies of the smaller sizes (15ct)* and deals remain available! Quality is very good with the Harper varieties including long shelf life and higher Brix levels. **MARKET STEADY**
- **Honeydews:** The honeydew market is strong and there are only limited supplies to finish this week bringing in the New Year. There will be limited supplies again next week, and still in few hands. Large sizes are especially short and it looks to remain that way into next week and beyond. Look for the market to remain strong. **MARKET HIGHER**

SQUASH

Eastern Squash: The squash market continues to hold at the lower levels as southernmost Florida gets into full swing. However, impending rains in southernmost Florida in the next couple of days will probably cause the market to move upwards come Monday.

TOMATOES

Eastern: Palmetto Ruskin growing area is becoming more of a producer with tomatoes. We are seeing lower fob in FL currently, possibly due to the dynamics of the holiday and shippers not wanting to be caught with inventory. We can expect to see better production in FL also due to a bit warmer temps. Roma tomatoes are still tight. **MARKET LOWER.**

Weather Alert

Weather Continues:

Forecast models show a slight chance of rain (10-20%) and cooler temperatures over the weekend for Southern California and the Desert growing regions. High pressure remains in place next week bringing dry conditions and seasonal temperatures to these regions. These same upcoming storm systems will usher in snow and very cold temperatures to the Pacific Northwest with temperatures in the single digits expected in the potato packing regions of Idaho. These temperatures can delay potato pack-outs as it is too cold to transfer product to the packing sheds. Warming temperatures with a slight chance of rain on and off are forecast for Central Florida. This will benefit strawberry production from this region as supplies begin to slowly rebound in Southern California.