

Dale's Market News 4/1/2018

Apples

- Galas, Honeycrisp, Red Delicious, Gold Delicious, Jazz, Pinks, Envy, Granny Smith, Fuji, and Jonagold available from Washington

Imported Asparagus

- The weather has improved in Mexico's 2 growing regions but volumes remain at lower levels than expected. Domestic supplies from CA continue to be impacted by rainy weather, Peru is off to a slow start but expects supplies to improve in another 2 weeks.
- Origin(s): California, Peru, Mexico

Avocados – Imported & Domestic

- Due to the Easter Holiday, volume crossing from Mexico has dropped significantly
- Production should be back to normal by 2nd week in April
- California volume continues to increase, but curtailed due to last week's storms

Berries

- Blueberries- as we finish the Chilean season the standard pack will be 6oz. Florida has started in a light way. Mexico continues to pick up steam with volume for this month and next month; pints will again be the standard pack loading around April 30th. Also, there was some freeze damage in GA but not as significant as last season and currently looks mostly to be to the later "Rabbit eye" varieties picking in May.
- Strawberries- Shippers will struggle this week and next week and look to be back to normal by Tuesday of next week
- Organics look short this week, but then very good next week as forecasted nice weather continues
- Blackberries- Good Volume continues with a forecasted peak end of April
- Raspberries- due to cold/wet weather in Central Mexico and Oxnard, CA, supplies have slowed down dramatically. Baja California season has also slowed down considerably due to tail end of its season.

Broccoli

- Moderate production as desert season nears its end and transitions to Coastal CA (Salinas/Santa Maria). Major rain last week saturated fields causing some harvest issues and short-term planting delays with fields too wet to plant. This could create a harvest gap down the road (late may/early June) but too early to tell as much can fill in over the next 8-11 weeks.

Cauliflower

- Growing area transition from desert to Coastal Ca. Last week's heavy rain has helped increase production but caused slight diminish in quality (occ some brown spotting on curds). Market softer as supplies improve. Production expected to be up and down next 2 months as cold weather, rain and planting delays come to play into upcoming production schedules.

Celery

- Moderate to good supplies continue next couple weeks although lighter than previous weeks. Desert production finishing for the season. Oxnard and Santa Maria will continue and remain center of production through May then transition to Salinas in June. Likely see a decrease in production in April depending of severely of seeders.

California Citrus– Domestic

Rain is in the forecast for most of this week. Rain will slow down harvest and depending how much rain we get may prevent harvest for 3-4 days, we will see this market get snug because of this. Overall markets are steady with deals being had one 8# navels and large bulk navels. Lemons 115ct and larger are a value as well.

Navels – we are seeing great quality. Ad deals / Hot Buys are around 56ct lrg.

- **Mandarins** –Time to set up for Halo ads. Volume will be strong through April.
- **Lemons** – Deals to be had on large fancy lemons.
- **Texas Grapefruit** – Crop is in demand as Florida winds down, we can load juice oranges out of here as well

Corn

- Supplies are tight from Florida due to cold weather in the growing regions affecting production and halting growth, Mexico's supplies will be steady (but light overall).
- Area(s) into production: Florida, Mexico

Cucumbers

- Honduran season will finish by mid-April, Florida has started with light production. Supplies in Mexico have improved and are on the increase with springtime production in play now from multiple growing regions.
- Areas into production include the following: Florida, Honduras, Mexico

Grapes

- We've reached that time of year when green grapes continue to be sent to the US market before the April 10 marketing order. Importers then have to figure out which lots are the strongest in an effort to hold back those lots for sale at a later date. The April 10 marketing

order is the time when all seedless varieties have to make US#1 upon arrival. The industry will transition out of promoting green grapes and promote red grapes going forward.

- **Green**

There are still less than 800,000 green grapes arriving to the US, but almost half of those are being slotted for long term storage. We should continue to see a brisk rise in the green grape market. Mexico seems to be light on the front end for greens, so we should see a strong green market for the remaining weeks of this deal.

- **Red**

Crimson shipments have been hit and miss and not very consistent with volumes as of late. The priority has been for green and black grapes as growers feel much more confident in shipping crimsons after the marketing order versus green and black varieties. We have heard there was a rain that dropped between 8 and 15 MM of rain to the south of Chile. It will be three weeks or more before we see the effects of this latest rainfall. It could definitely provide a shortfall of late season crimsons. And with Mexico not able to provide reds in the early week of May, the crimson market could gather momentum and bring higher fob's than were once thought.

Leafy Lettuce (green, red, romaine)

- Moderate to light production. Desert season finishing over the next couple weeks. Still seeing some remaining defects (epidermal peel) from previous cold/freezes. Market fairly active. Huron started for brief 2-3-week season. Salinas will start in couple weeks.

Iceberg Lettuce

- Production slightly improving putting pressure on the market. Still see some epidermal peel on outer leaves with discoloration following. Yuma winding down over the next 1-2 weeks. Huron starts this week for short 2-4-week season. Quality in Huron will be below average due to deluge of rain last week in short period. Will see shorter shelf-life with pink rib (5-7 days after harvest) and weaker condition. Advise staying tight on lettuce until quality improves which may be 3 weeks. Salinas starts mid/late-April.

Melons

Cantaloupe & Honeydew

- Supplies on import cantaloupes and honeydews are good with no quality issues. All sizes available 9/9J/12s.
- Cantaloupe 9/9J/12 (Guatemala)
- Honeydew (Mexico)

Watermelons

- Mexican (Loading in Nogales, AZ / McAllen, TX) are tight from cooler weather in Northern Mexico. Off Shore is tight as watermelons are starting to wind down

Organic Veg – Lamont/Salinas

Transition from Coachella to Lamont will finish week of 3/19

- Iceberg Lettuce –Limited supplies available, Market Higher
- Leaf- Limited supplies on Green, Red and Romaine- Market Steady
- Broccoli- Limited supplies available, Market Higher
- Cauliflower-Limited supplies, Market Higher
- Celery/Celery Hrts- Decent supplies, Market Steady
- Cilantro- Good supplies available.
- Green Cabbage-Decent supplies available /Market Higher
- Mix (Chards, Kales, Parsleys)- Good supplies- Market steady
- Red Beets - Limited supplies available, Market steady

Peppers

- Florida's supplies will stay light this week, quality is only fair at best with scarring and bruising evident. Better supplies and quality will be available in another week when new fields start production. Mexico's supplies are down in volume, supplies though will stay consistent till the season winds down in late April.
- Hot House colored bell supplies from Mexico are light in supply. Canada has started with yellow and orange, red will start this week
- Areas into production include the following: Canada, Florida, Mexico

Squash

- Squash supplies (from both the east and the west) will see an increase in their volumes with the start of their springtime production. Mexico's volume will be heavy now till mid to latter part of April.
- Area(s) into production: Florida, Mexico