

*Dale's Bi-Monthly Produce Review*  
*February 28, 2018*

**Apples**

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

**Imported Asparagus**

- Mexico is still into peak production keeping pipeline in excellent supplies for doing promotions, quality is very good.

**Avocados – Imported & Domestic**

- 46 million pounds were shipped from Mexico last week, but growers in Mexico are holding back some harvest
- Organic are stable right now, but March tends to be tight.
- California volume expected to ramp up in late March.

**Bananas**

- Volumes are increasing and the market is showing signs of weakening.
- We anticipate better supplies in North America in the coming weeks.
- Vessel schedules are coming back in order.

**Green Beans**

- Out West, supplies are good but beans will continue to show a range in quality (from fair to good).

**Berries**

**Strawberries**

- CALIFORNIA - Oxnard new spring crop is starting as is Santa Maria new crop. Extreme Colder weather has kept supply down.
- **Blackberry** volume continues to struggle in supply as the growing region in MX and California was also hit with a cold snap that slowed the plants from releasing fruit. Still day to day volume available. Origin is Mexico and Guatemalan product.
- **Blueberry** volume continues to be steady. Eating quality and size has been nice. 6oz pack size looks to be the predominant pack size end of Feb/beg of March.
- **Raspberry** day to day volume steady but the cold weather in MX and California did slow down the volume a lot more than expected, especially on organics. Though day to day volume is stated above.

**Broccoli**

- Cold weather changes affecting growth and slowing production while strengthening the market. Transition from desert back to Salinas started early (last week) but should slow with current cold weather. Market will be volatile in March.

**Cabbage**

- Supplies showed an increase due to favorable weather pushing production ahead. Expect supplies to lighten though through this forecast window with the increase in demand for St Patrick's Day.

**Carrots**

- Bolthouse – Looking good. No quality issues or supply issues being reported. Harvesting in California

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**Cauliflower**

- Recent cold front dramatically slowed growth and supplies! Market quickly spiked as demand exceeds supplies. Forecast is for lighter than normal supplies next 3-4 weeks. Transition to Salinas started ahead of schedule this week but will now be slowed by current weather.

**Celery**

- Very good supplies continue next couple weeks. Cold weather has not done anything to significantly slow or reduce short-term supplies (next 2 weeks). Production centered in Oxnard, Santa Maria and few shippers in Yuma. Transfers from Oxnard to Yuma with lead time.

**California Citrus– Domestic**

- **Navels** – we are seeing great quality. Ad deals / Hot Buys are around 56ct lrg..
- **Mandarins** –Halo volume will be strong through April.
- **Lemons** – Deals to be had on large fancy lemons.
- **Blood Oranges** - overall quality is great, talk with us and we will get these on your orders.
- **Organic Mandarins** –. Quality is awesome!!
- **Texas Grapefruit** – Crop is in demand as Florida winds down

**Cucumbers**

Supplies from out west remain good with multiple growing regions still into play, quality is mostly good (but will show a range).

**Grapes**

- Grape business this past week was good, bordering on brisk. We have hit the halfway point and so far so good. The northern regions of Chile are finishing up as the last flames from Copiapo and the Ovalle area have finished. The fruit from the southern regions have arrived in much better shape for us and we look to continue to sell with confidence. The big berries and fully formed bunches with emerald green color really smacks you in the face when you open the box. You can't help but say, WOW
- The first Crimsons are starting to arrive this weekend. I am anxious to see how they look especially on size they tend to be a ring size smaller than Peru. Chile does a good job with Crimsons and I am sure this year will be no different. Green grapes from the south including Thompson and Sugraones have been very nice thus far. I don't see that changing in the near future. That fruit will be put to sleep and until well after Easter this year. . Remember, Mexico has now a new, earlier region that could produce Sugraones/Primes in April. We will keep eye on that!!

**Leafy Lettuce (green, red, romaine)**

- Cold weather (light freeze) in CA/AZ slowing production and to a certain degree impacting quality (epidermal peel). Market much stronger with lighter supplies. Desert will likely finish and transition early ahead of schedule mid/late-March.

**Iceberg Lettuce**

- Iced mornings caused harvesting delays each morning by up to 4 hours and has slow upcoming fields. Market strengthened from recent oversupply/bottom market situation. Morning field ice has caused some blistering and epidermal peel to develop. This will result in some discoloration to occur several days after packing/shipping. Transition will start Huron in mid-March and Salinas early/mid-April.

**Mangos – Imported**

- Peru Kent's are in peak season and readily available in all sizes.
- Sizing is running on the larger side (7ct & 8ct mostly).
- Honey Mangoes are available from Mexico.
- Mexican harvesting on round mangoes has begun, but product is too immature.

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**MELONS**

**Cantaloupe & Honeydew**

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

**Onions, Sweet**

- **Mexican** - Mexican Sweet Onions are crossing, good quality and volume.

**Organic Veg – Lamont/Salinas**

- Iceberg Lettuce - Limited supplies available, Market Steady
- Leaf- Good supplies on Green, Red and Romaine- Market Steady
- Broccoli- Good supplies available, Market Higher
- Cauliflower- Limited supplies, Market Higher w prorates expected.
- 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- Good supplies available, Market steady

**Pears – Domestic**

- Danjou's, and Bosc from Washington are available with smaller than ideal sizing and volume this year. Chilean and Argentine Bartlett's available this week. Bosc crop is much shorter than normal. Asian Pears available from California.

**Peppers**

- Mexico's supplies are good with new field production heavy to # 1 grade bells and less choice.
- Hot House colored bell supplies from Mexico will stay in light supply through this forecast window.
- Areas into production include the following: Florida, Mexico

**Potatoes – Western**

**Idaho Potatoes**

- Consistent supply,
- Markets – Continuing to increase due to freight costs and demand.
- Harvesting / Weather issues – None.
- Current size profile – The profile is trending towards the smaller side which will be good for consumer packs.

**Squash**

- No changes in this story, squash supplies (east and west) will be good for zucchini and light on the yellows. Yellow yields are being affected by windy weather in the east and the white fly issue out west.
- Area(s) into production: Florida, Mexico

**Tomatoes**

**Stem & Hydro**

- Quality is good out of Mexico.
- Canada will start late March in a very small way with the bulk of the volume coming on in early April.

**Round, Roma, Grape, Cherry**

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- **General Update**
  - As Florida production begins to slow down slightly, markets have not reacted since much of the country is experiencing typical winter weather, affecting consumer demand.
- **Rounds**
  - Florida has experienced favorable weather in recent weeks, however smaller fruit has become slightly less available.
- **Roma**
  - Romas are available out of Florida, but Mexico continues with the majority of product crossing.
- **Grape & Cherry**
  - Romas are available out of Florida, but Mexico continues with the majority of product crossing.
  - There are concerns with Mexican quality and condition as shippers struggle to keep cases moving out the door.

<i><b>AD SUGGESTIONS</b></i>	
<i><b>Asparagus</b></i>	<i><b>Green Beans</b></i>
<i><b>Bartlett Pears</b></i>	<i><b>Green Bells</b></i>
<i><b>Broccoli</b></i>	<i><b>Green Cabbage</b></i>
<i><b>Celery</b></i>	<i><b>Honeycrisp Apples</b></i>
<i><b>Cucumbers</b></i>	
<i><b>Danjou Pears</b></i>	<i><b>Zucchini Squash</b></i>
<i><b>Gala Apples</b></i>	