Overview
Garlic, asparagus, grapes, and cauliflower are in extreme market. Broccoli and lettuce look good, however, due to the winds from last week we are seeing dirt in leafy green items. Citrus, apples, and broccoli are steady.

Market Alert
- Asparagus
- Cauliflower
- Garlic
- Grapes (Green and Red)

Transportation
Transportation availability will continue to tighten in all areas going into the Christmas holiday weekend. This situation is expected to continue through the end of the year, as many drivers will be off the road during the holidays.

Weather
A cold-weather storm system is in the late-week forecast for the Central & Southern California coastal districts and the San Joaquin Valley, with over 0.75 inches of rain predicted for most areas and highs in the 50s & 60s. Showers are also in the forecast for the desert southwest and Northern Mainland Mexico. Highs for Yuma, Arizona will be in the 50s & 60s, with lows in the 40s. Sunny skies and mild temperatures will continue in the strawberry-growing region of Southern Mexico. Unseasonably warm temperatures are in the forecast for Central Florida, with highs reaching the low 80s by Saturday and continuing well into next week, with no rain being forecast for Central Florida.

Good Buys
**Green Beans**- Green beans are great as a side for any holiday meal. Try them bacon-wrapped or sautéed with garlic.

**Bananas**- Bananas are great in breads and muffins, but we love to see them flambéed as Bananas Foster.

Regional / Local
Here is a short list of local produce that you may want to add to your menus to entice the Locally Grown crowd. We will keep expanding on local product every week.

**Florida/Georgia**
- **Sweet Corn**: Florida Sweet Corn from the Clewiston area is available and supplies are slowly improving. Pricing is also improving. Mexican corn is available as well.

**Cucumbers**: Cucumbers have been in excellent supply this fall in Georgia. The beautiful weather has made for great color, good length, and a firm piece of fruit. With the cold spell this week, we could see some slow-down in production, but with Florida cranking up over the next two weeks we don’t expect any shortages or gaps in production in THIS region.

**Squash**: Squash is readily available and market trends point to supply exceeding demand. There is ample volume of dark green zucchini, as well as a nice yellow squash crop for this time of year, in Florida and Georgia. With the pressure from the white flies that pushed Georgia’s early fall crop down, the yellow squash volume is increasing and the quality is much more consistent. Georgia is starting on its last new fields this week, with Florida ramping up by the end of the month.

**Eggplant**: South Georgia still looks to have several weeks of solid production, and there should be gapping problems as Florida looks to start in the middle of November.
**Bell Peppers:** Bell peppers are in full production in South Georgia right now. Many growers are working on several different fields, resulting in a wide range of product and size availability. From Jumbos down to Choice, promotional volume should be readily available well past the end of the month. Cooler weather in fall plantings usually means thicker walls, darker color, and a nice heavy green bell.

**Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee and New York**

**Micro greens:** Micro greens and items like Mache, Mizuna, and other salad greens are readily available in these regions.

**Michigan, Pennsylvania, Washington, New York, South Carolina, and Virginia**

**Apples:** Apples are a great fall item that are currently coming out of these regions.

**Oregon, Washington and Michigan**

**Cherries:** Currently coming out of these regions.

**Fruits & Vegetables**

**Avocados:** The avocado market has recovered from the previous strike. We are seeing a good supply and quality.

**Bananas:** Demand and quality are good and supply is steady.

**Grapes:** We are seeing very high prices on green and red grapes. Domestic grapes are done, and imports are very slow to start. We are seeing shortages in product, leading to very high prices. We expect this to improve in January.

**Berries**

**Blueberries:** Blueberry supply and quality are good, prices vary.

**Blackberries:** Blackberry supplies are good. Quality is good to very good.

**Raspberries:** Raspberry supplies are good. As always, we will see prices go up and supplies get tighter as we move into the holiday season. Quality continues to be good to very good.

**Strawberries:** The strawberry market has eased up. Texas and Florida are in good production and quality is good. California is still seeing higher prices, we should see relief in this region within the next week or so.

**California / Arizona Citrus**

**Navel:** California and Texas are packing with good supplies. Sizes are peaking at 88/113/72, with a 70/30 grade ratio. Quality, flavor and internal color are very good.

**Lemons:** District 1 is packing, while District 3 is finishing up. Volume is tight on 200’s and they are peaking at 115/95/140. District 1 quality has been very good. Expect market to increase.

**Limes:** Limes are available in good supplies, packing in Texas and California. Great quality and color.

**Grapefruit:** Texas grapefruit is packing, with good supplies of 40s and smaller. Florida Red and Dark Red grapefruit is also packing, with sizes peaking at 27/32. Smaller sizes are limited. Grapefruit quality has been very good this year.

**Specialties:** Blood Oranges have started. Cara Caras are available, with good color and quality. Mandarins are available, with sizes peaking at 24/21/28/18. Great taste and color.

Tangerines are available, sizing larger than expected and peaking at MB/MAM/LGE. Pummelos are also available, sizes peaking at 12/14/10. Peak season quality, good color. Orlando Tangelos are ready to pack this week, with a bright orange color and a sweet flavor, expect a short season.

**Import Citrus:** Moroccan mandarins are available with sizes peaking at 20/28 on 5 lb, 20/32 on 10/3 lb.
**Pineapple**: Demand is good and prices are stable. The market is getting better.

**California Lettuce**

**Green and Red Leaf**: Supplies are good, quality is average. We are seeing a lot of dirt due to the heavy winds.

**Iceberg Lettuce**: Supplies of iceberg lettuce are still on the lighter side; the cold weather has pushed volume back a bit. Quality is improving and prices are slightly up.

**Romaine**: Supplies are lighter than expected and quality is hit or miss. We are seeing dirt and mildew due to the winds.

**Romaine Hearts**: Supplies are plentiful. We are seeing twisting and quality is average, but there is improvement.

**Eastern and Western Vegetables**

**Green and Red Bell Peppers**: There is plentiful availability for green bell peppers in Florida and Nogales (from Northern Mainland Mexico). Production in Coachella for red bell peppers will continue through January, supplemented by new-crop red bells which are now available in Nogales.

**Cucumbers**: Availability is plentiful in the east, with imports from Central America increasing. Northern Mainland Mexico is now the primary district in the west; supplies are plentiful.

**English Cucumber**: We are seeing plentiful supplies in Nogales.

**Green Beans**: Production is in full swing in Florida and Mainland Mexico.

**Zucchini & Yellow Squash**: Both are in oversupply in Florida and Nogales. Quality is somewhat variable in Florida, excellent in Nogales.

**Mangos**: Supply and quality are good and prices are rising slightly.

**Herbs**

Supplies have been steady with a few hiccups in availability of **Basil**. Our **Basil** supply was hit with heavy demand this week as one of the growing regions had heavy rains, followed by poor quality. Demand increased for the basil being grown in Mexico, which caused the disturbance. Our supplies steadied after a 48 hour assessment and look favorable going forward. We have been holding off on any price increase but we may have to make a slight adjustment next week. Your sales rep will keep you informed. Most importantly, we do not see any issues with our quality or supply of good fresh basil.

**CHIVES** will be in heavy demand next week as people go out and end the year with a great steak and baked potato. Please make sure that you place your orders early.

The overnight carriers have done a pretty good job this year dealing with weather conditions around the country and increased package count. Thank you for your patience during this peak season for **UPS** and **FedEx**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HERB</th>
<th>SUPPLIES</th>
<th>QUALITY</th>
<th>COUNTRY OF ORIGIN</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arugula</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basil</td>
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<td>USA/MEXICO</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Thai Basil</td>
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<td>USA/MEXICO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bay Leaves</td>
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<td>Good</td>
<td>COLUMBIA</td>
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Chervil | Good | Good | USA
---|---|---|---
Chives | Good | Good | USA/MEXICO
Cilantro | Good | Good | USA
Dill | Good | Good | USA/MEXICO
Episode | Good | Good | MEXICO
Lemongrass | Good | Good | USA
Marjoram | Steady | Good | USA
Mint | Good | Good | USA
Oregano | Good | Good | USA
Italian Parsley | Good | Good | USA
Rosemary | Limited | Good | USA
Sage | Good | Good | USA/MEXICO
Savory | Good | Good | USA
Sorrel | Good | Good | USA
Tarragon | Good | Good | MEXICO
Thyme | Good | Good | USA
Lemon Thyme | Good | Good | USA
Lavender | Good | Good | USA
Lime Leaves | Good | Good | USA
Hora Santa | Good | Good | USA

**Melons**

Good supply of **cantaloupe** will continue through the end of the month. Primary sizing will be 9s and larger, with a fair percentage of 12s expected. 15s will remain mostly limited over the next few weeks. Quality this season has been exceptional, with very consistent external and internal profiles. Brix levels also remain very steady in the 11-14% range with some higher.

**Honeydew** supply will start to increase slightly but good demand is expected throughout the country with the Nogales season coming to a close. Sizing will be mostly 5s and larger with a good percentage of jumbo fruit (4J/5Js) anticipated as well. Brix levels remain consistent in the 10-13% range, with some as high as 15%.

**Watermelon:** Supplies are plentiful, and quality is outstanding. Market is extremely weak. Nogales is being very aggressive with the price in an attempt to keep product moving.

**Mixed Vegetables**

**Artichokes:** We expect good supplies of artichokes this week as supplies industry-wide have increased. Better volume is expected in the upcoming weeks. Prices are steady to lower on some sizes.

**Arugula:** Supplies of both baby and wild arugula are light, due to mildew.

**Asparagus:** EXTREME MARKET. **Prices are up due to the end of the season.** This transition phase will last until about Jan. 15th, when Mexico starts. After that, we should see more asparagus availability. Mexico is on schedule to start by mid-January, and the real volume will hit us by early/mid-February, helping this market out.

**Bok Choy:** Availability and quality are good.
Broccoli: Supplies are good this week and we are seeing a range of prices. Quality is good.

Brussel Sprouts: The market and supplies are good this week. Quality has improved.

Carrots: Carrots are in great quality and good supply.

Cauliflower: EXTREME MARKET. Due to the weather at the beginning of the Yuma season, we are seeing a very short supply in the cauliflower industry wide. Prices are escalated.

Celery: The market is steady and quality is good.

Cilantro: Supplies are average. Quality is still yellow and decaying in some.

Fennel: Supplies for the week will be good.

Garlic: The garlic market continues to be volatile. Demand exceeds supply. The CA harvest finished last month and crops were down 15-30% from where we had hoped they would be. We are uncertain where the supply on garlic from China will be. We are hearing that it will get even tighter, but we are uncertain. Quality remains good and we will keep you posted as we hear what China will be doing.

Ginger: Chinese ginger is in good supply. It is being offered at a substantial discount compared to ginger from Brazil.

Green Cabbage: Green cabbage is in good supplies and should be steady this week. Quality is good.

Green Onions: The green onion supply for the industry will be tightening up in the coming days or into next week. This is due to weather and availability based on growing conditions, we will send more updates when we get notice.

Kale (Green): Demand is steady and quality is average. We are seeing some mildew.

Mache: Adequate availability.

Napa: Supplies are good and quality is excellent.

Parsley (Curly, Italian): Prices are normal and quality is excellent.

Radishes: Quality is good and supply is plentiful.

Red Cabbage: Quality and sizing have been great, with good color. Overall, the market is strong.

Snow and Sugar Snap Peas: Snow and sugar snap peas currently have high demand with good quality.

Spinach (Baby): Baby and clipped spinach supplies are good. Quality is fair to good, with good prices. There are some reports of mildew.

Spinach (Bunched): Supply is good, but quality is only fair. We are still seeing some mildew in this product.

Spring Mix: There is lots of product and quality is average.

Onions
The onion market continues to lean towards large size profiles, with a surplus of Supers and Colossals. We expect smaller onions to remain tight, as retailers running consumer bag ads are keeping floors clean. We do not expect
to see much movement in pricing over the next couple weeks on any of the three colors. The truck shortage in the northwest is continuing to curtail movement.

**Potatoes**
Demand in the state is good, prices are stable. It appears most operations are running full shifts, but not overtime. The fresh market should see good demand through next Tuesday. You could see business drop off significantly by the end of the week. Business could be slow enough that you may see a four-day holiday next week. We have not heard any major quality issues at this time and do not expect any in the near future. Quality is usually best when prices are at their lowest. Transportation is adequate at this time, but you may run into capacity issues next week and the following week. Rates will probably be higher for some areas.

**Tomatoes**

**East:**
- Rounds—Supplies in the east are excellent due to favorable growing conditions and steady production in Florida. FOB prices are down this week with excellent quality being reported.
- Roma—Harvest forecasts are somewhat off this week and supplies are shorter than expected. Overall quality is good. Pricing will be slightly higher this week.
- Grapes—Supplies are steady with FOB prices remaining mostly unchanged. Quality is very nice.
- Cherries—Supplies are improving. FOB prices are down and quality is good.

**West/Mexico:**
- Rounds—Vine-ripe production is down a bit out of Baja. FOB prices are expected to be up and down until Central Mexico production ramps up in approximately 10-12 days. Quality will be mixed out of Mexico.
- Romas—Supplies are good out of Southern Baja and Central Mexico. Quality will continue to improve. FOB pricing will be slightly higher this week through Central Mexico, as well as Baja.
- Grapes—Supplies are up while demand is down this week. FOB prices are mostly unchanged with mixed quality.
- Cherries—FOB prices are slightly higher due to lighter availability. Expect a wide range of quality.

**APPLES, Pears, & Tree Fruit**

Apples and pears are in season. Quality and availability are good. Apples are running on the small side. Prices are up from last year due to the size of the fruit.