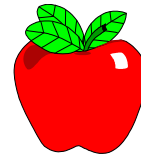


FRESH NEWS

From Pic Rite Management



August 25, 2019

Our goal is to provide up-to-date information about the ever-changing conditions affecting produce. Our weekly produce newsletter uses many sources and markets to track price, availability & quality.

MOTHER NATURE'S DECISIONS

Central MX asparagus supplies are slowing seasonally & Peru are hurt by cold temps so expect higher prices. Broccoli is a bit better on warm temps but we could soon face a gap in production from it being ahead of schedule. Cauliflower is in better supply & quality. We are getting carrots from Canada so MX is coming down due to the competition. Celery is better with MI helping out supplies. Eastern cucumbers are coming from all over the place & demand is slow. The western cucumber market is up on increased demand. Between the Mid-West & eastern areas, there are good supplies of green peppers & Canada is pushing supplies onto US markets. Western green peppers aren't in as good supply & demand is strong. Schools are starting up & iceberg is getting tighter on increased demand of good quality supplies. Romaine is getting tighter also but leaf lettuce is in good supply. New onions from the northwest are starting & suppliers are trying to get rid of their storage supplies so prices will come down some. Even though squash is coming from many eastern states, prices will go up some on strong demand especially on yellow. Western squash is in ok supply but there may be some heat related quality issues. Eastern & western tomatoes are tighter due to heat related issues.

As MX becomes the sole avocado source, prices will rise. Watch raspberry quality. Imported lemons will help supplies. Strawberries will be smaller due to heat. There are good supplies of several different varieties of green grapes but also strong demand. Red grapes are moving from flames to other varieties with prices up some. Both cantaloupe & honeydew quality are good with loupes & dews being in better supply. Go for larger size dews now for the best deal.

Jalapeno Pot-Per Bust

Here's a strange story for you. On August 15th, a man entered the port of entry to the US from Mexico driving a tractor pulling a trailer with a cargo manifested as jalapeno peppers. It must have been suspicious looking so they got the canine unit involved. Officers were able to extract 314 large wrapped packages of marijuana co-mingled with the jalapeno peppers. The marijuana weighed in at 7,560 pounds worth \$2.3 million. I guess the driver felt that the jalapenos would mask the smell of the marijuana!

Some person honked at me for taking too long to order at McDonald's drive thru. So, I paid for their food... Then when I got to the food window I showed them both receipts and took their food.

PRODUCE EXCHANGE TRENDS

This section of the Newsletter is designed to give a quick overview of the trends of individual items. "Mother Nature's Decisions" gives more info on the market & "Pics Worth a Look" will give an approximate up or down % for the week.

Tomatoes – Globes are higher, grapes are up some & cherry are higher and plum are steady.

Potatoes – bakers & reds are a bit lower & 70ct & larger bakers will get even tighter.

Lettuces – The heat has produced quality issues. Iceberg is higher as schools open, leaf is lower & Romaine is higher.

Cauliflower – prices are down more this week & quality has improved.

Broccoli – is steady but with heat caused defects & an outlook of higher prices in the near future.

Grapes – Green are lower and red are up a bit.

Strawberries – prices are fairly steady this week.

Melons – Dews are much lower & loupes are lower.

Lemons – supplies are mostly largest sizes and prices are down some but remain high on foodservice sizes.

Squash – yellow is higher & green are up some.

Peppers – green are fairly steady overall.

Onions – yellow are lower.

Celery – prices are lower with prices close to normal.

Apples – prices are steady this week.

Cucumbers – prices are steady this week. East Coast is being hurt by heat.

Carrots – are higher this week despite supplies from Canada & MI.

Asparagus – prices are higher.

PICS WORTH A LOOK FOR THE WEEK - Each $\uparrow\downarrow$ = 8 -12% change

GOOD VALUES

Broccoli	Green Leaf↓	Watermelon
Cantaloupe↓	Honeydew↓	
Carrots↑	Plum Tomatoes	
Cauliflower↓↓	Strawberries	
Grapes, Gr↓	Squash, Gr	
Grapes, Red	Squash, Yell↑	

WATCH OUT-CAREFULLY CONSIDER

Asparagus↑	Raspberries↑
Cucumbers	Avocados
Celery↓	Iceberg↑
Corn↓↓	Romaine↑
Onions↓	Cherry Tom↑
Peppers	Tomatoes