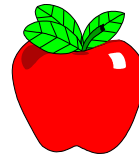


FRESH NEWS

From Pic Rite Management



September 8, 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

Baja, MX has started asparagus supplies but we're a week or so from better supplies. Broccoli is getting tighter due to heat causing lower yields. Cauliflower is affected by heat & fields are ahead of schedule. Heat has slowed the sizing of carrots so jumbos are tighter. Celery demand is off some on good supplies. Eastern cucumber supplies are expected to pick up some this week. Western cucumbers are holding steady. This is a good time for eastern green peppers but heat has caused some quality issues. Western green peppers are in good supply & quality. Iceberg supplies are in more demand with schools opening but growing temps in CA are good. Romaine supplies have tightened up but leaf lettuces are in good supply. Thanks to onion crops coming from the Northwest, supplies are good. Storage potatoes are done & new crops are in good supply. Eastern squash is steady with yellow being tighter than green. Better weather is helping western squash supplies. This year's summer tomato programs are coming from many states but in light supply & Dorian won't help at all. Western heat will affect future tomato supplies by causing bloom drop.

Avocados from Peru & CA are finishing but until they are done prices will hold then MX will bump them higher. Strawberries are steady but fields are slowing down & demand will get stronger. Imports are helping lemon supplies. Limes are tight due to drought with quality issues. Oranges are limited & demand is stronger. Red & green grape supplies are better this week as we move into new harvests but shippers are holding prices higher. Both cantaloupe & honeydew supplies are going good but go for largest sizes for the best deals. Raspberries are tighter.

Food Waste, Scary topic

The EPA and USDA signed a joint agency agreement to work collectively to reduce food waste and loss by 50% by 2030. Why all the hullabaloo? Here are some facts so you decide why? 38 million tons of food is thrown away every year worth between \$165-220 billion. Up to 40% of food in the US is wasted. 25% of all fresh water is used on wasted food. 190 million people could be fed a balanced diet with the food wasted every year in the US. 42 million Americans live in food insecure households. Plate waste of food is close to 50%. Eat all your veggies, etcetera.....

I went to the store to buy 12 bees and the shopkeeper gave me 13. I told him he gave me 1 too many and he said it was a freebie!

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 down some, grapes are steady & cherry are a bit higher and plum are lower.

Potatoes – bakers are lower & reds are fairly steady & 70ct & larger bakers remain as they have all season, on the tight side.

Lettuces – The heat has produced quality issues. Iceberg is down a little, leaf is steady & Romaine is up a bit.

Cauliflower – prices are up but quality has improved.

Broccoli – is steady to up some but it has heat caused defects.

Grapes – Green and red are steady.

Strawberries – prices are steady this week.

Melons – Dews are down some & loupes are up some.

Lemons – supplies are mostly largest sizes and prices are up some this week.

Squash – yellow is higher & green is a bit higher.

Peppers – green are a bit higher.

Onions – yellow are steady to a bit lower.

Celery – prices are down some.

Apples – prices are steady this week.

Cucumbers – prices are lower this week. East Coast has been hurt by heat.

Carrots – are steady to lower this week.

Asparagus – prices are higher.

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

GOOD VALUES

Broccoli	Grapes, Red	Squash, Yell
Cantaloupe	Green Leaf	Tomatoes
Carrots	Honeydew	Tomatoes
Cauliflower	Plum Tomatoes \downarrow	Watermelon
Cherry Tom	Strawberries	
Grapes, Gr	Squash, Gr	

WATCH OUT-CAREFULLY CONSIDER

Asparagus \uparrow	Raspberries
Cucumbers	Avocados
Celery	Iceberg
Corn	Romaine
Onions	
Peppers	