



**Del Bene  
PRODUCE**

# Market Update

For the week ending May 19th, 2018

## **SUGGESTED BUYS:**

Brussels sprouts, corn, Vidalia onions, tomatoes, romaine, colored peppers, blackberries, strawberries

## **TIGHT AND EXPENSIVE:**

Green peppers, cauliflower, baby artichokes, leaf lettuce,

## **NEW ON MARKET:**

Michigan asparagus, Oregon morels, Michigan ramps, eastern fiddleheads, Michigan Rhubarb, English peas, fava beans, cotton candy grapes, muscat grapes, champagne (ataulfo) mango, quince, yellow vine tomatoes, prima CA peaches

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## **ASPARAGUS: MARKET DOWN**

We now have plentiful supplies of Michigan asparagus in stock. Please specify when placing your order if you prefer the Michigan grown asparagus as we will occasionally be shipping product from other origins. Initial quality on the locally grown crop has been very good. Other growing areas shipping asparagus include Washington, California, Mexico, and Peru.

## **BELL PEPPERS: Green Peppers – MARKET UP**

While Florida has pretty much finished up its green pepper season, Georgia remains another week to week and a half away from harvesting. Tight supplies and higher prices are expected for the rest of May. Much of the east coast demand has shifted west to California, which does not have enough supply to match the increased demand.

## **BERRIES: Blackberries - MARKET DOWN; Blueberries, Raspberries, and Strawberries – MARKET UP**

*Strawberries* – Supplies are plentiful coming from several different areas now. This will lead to a price decrease for next week, now that the holiday demand is behind us. Oxnard, CA will have product for another week or so. Santa Maria has significantly improved its harvest with fantastic quality. High quality fruit is also coming out of Salinas/Watsonville with volumes increasing week over week.

*Blueberries* – Much of the late season fruit in Florida has been eliminated because of inclement weather. Most shippers have left the area, which has left a slight production gap. While Mexico and Georgia are harvesting, supplies are light. Until California and North Carolina get going, we will see a stronger market. Quality on all blueberries has been beautiful, but it will take another week or two for supplies to catch up. We should see an abundance of nice quality product available at aggressive prices for the next couple weeks.

*Blackberries* – Blackberries remain the most plentiful variety of berry on the market with consistent supplies available to meet current demand. Quality has been outstanding on all incoming product. Prices are a bargain right now, so take advantage while you can. California production is projected to begin in Santa Maria by the end of May and Salinas/Watsonville shortly thereafter.

*Raspberries* – Prices continue to gradually inch closer towards reasonable/average levels as supplies are slowly improving. Santa Maria has increased production while Mexico is still filling the pipeline. Quality on the early domestic crop has been excellent, but Mexico is starting to show some soft berries from warmer weather. Market prices will adjust down further with Salinas and Watsonville beginning to harvest in a few weeks.

## **LETTUCE: Iceberg and Romaine - MARKETS DOWN**

*Iceberg* – Although supplies are improving, prices are still strong headed into next week. The lettuce coming from Salinas has had occasional issues being reported, but quality has been mostly good. Santa Maria is only offering limited supplies for another consecutive week. It's looking like the market should settle down as we get into the second half of May.

*Romaine* – There continues to be a considerable price spread between romaine and leaf lettuce. Red leaf, green leaf, and bibb lettuce are all still in short supply with higher prices. Romaine prices have been sliding in recent weeks with more people turning to iceberg after the contamination reports throughout the past month. Once again, all romaine being shipped from Del Bene Produce is from California and safe to eat.

## **STONE FRUIT:**

We now have the first Prima brand (California) peaches of the season in stock and ready to ship. California nectarines are also available in volume filled boxes. We are still waiting on the first cherries of the season, which will most likely start off extremely expensive. California plums and apricots should be starting within the next week or so.

## **TOMATOES: MARKETS UP**

Round tomato prices are stronger than they've been in weeks as the market had bottomed out. Regardless of the slight price increase, spring time supplies are plentiful because of consistently nice weather in the growing areas. Roma, grape, and cherry tomatoes are also available at reasonable price. Yellow on the vine tomatoes are now in stock. Other varieties available include heirloom, mixed color cherry, kumato, and hot house tomatoes.

## **RECOVERY PARK FARMS: LOCALLY GROWN IN DETROIT**

RecoveryPark produce locally grown in Detroit is in stock! Red and gold baby bunched beets, mixed baby squash, mixed edible blossoms, spicy greens, and mild Asian greens are in plentiful supply. There is also Korean daikon radish, squash blossoms, and mixed baby radishes available with great quality. Call your sales rep for more details.

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