



**Del Bene
PRODUCE**

Market Update

For the week ending September 15, 2018

SUGGESTED BUYS:

Brussels sprouts, corn, grapes, all tomatoes, green peppers, cantaloupe, honeydew and raspberries

TIGHT AND EXPENSIVE:

Lemons, bosc pears, blackberries

NEW ON MARKET:

Chanterelle mushrooms (Canada), MI honey rock melons, candy heart grapes, MI heirloom tomatoes, MI mixed cherry tomatoes, MI saskatoon berries, MI wax beans, RecoveryPark rainbow carrots w/ tops,

APPLES: *Fuji and Gala* – MARKET DOWN; *GRANNY SMITH* – MARKET UP

We are winding down with old crop apples as new crop harvests are about to take place or already in progress in several states throughout the country. We will see prices increase once the new crop is available, which is what we are starting to see already with the granny smith varieties. The first new crop varieties that will be available out of Michigan are gala and fuji. We will also continue to ship mostly fancy grade apples out of Washington. Michigan apple cider is also in stock!

BERRIES: *Strawberries, Blackberries, and Blueberries* – MARKETS UP

Strawberries – Supplies are still somewhat limited industry wide, even with the strong Labor Day pull behind us. Salinas and Watsonville are both reporting lighter production, while there is only limited availability out of Santa Maria. The summer crop continues to wind down with the fall crop just beginning. This is resulting in a small production gap that is expected to last for most of September until Oxnard, CA and Mexico begin their seasons around the first week of October. There have been struggles with quality the past few weeks because of those berries being grown in extremely high temperatures in the California growing areas. Quality should improve quickly within the next week or two.

Blueberries – Market prices have taken a considerable jump this week as domestic production is winding down and we await higher volumes of imported berries to arrive. Both Michigan and the Pacific NW are pretty much done for the season or will finish within the next week or two. Peruvian blueberries will be the first of the import crop to hit the market, gradually increasing volume throughout September and peak production throughout October and November. Argentina and Chile will also be shipping product within the next month.

Blackberries – Short supplies and steady demand are driving up prices right now in the blackberry market. There is a lull in production out west in Salinas, Watsonville, and the Pacific NW. The Northern California season started late and was also forced to finish early because of high temperatures. Supplies will remain limited for the next three to four weeks until Oxnard, CA and Central Mexico start to produce significant numbers.

Raspberries – Supplies have remained unchanged with steady volume coming from California, but the surge of volume that usually comes this time of year has yet to hit. Quality has been very nice out of all growing areas: Salinas, Watsonville, and Santa Maria. Production is expected to pick up gradually as we move through September.

MELONS: *Watermelons* – MARKET UP

Weather in the San Joaquin Valley remains very hot (90-100 degrees) but will drop down to the low 90s this weekend. This remains the primary growing area for cantaloupes and honeydews. Fruit continues to grow and ripen quickly. Quality remains very good with high sugar levels. While product pricing is very good, freight remains high and costs almost as much as the fruit itself. Watermelon prices are on the rise with the local seasons coming to an end and the transition to product out of Texas and Mexico.

CITRUS: Lemons & Limes: MARKET DOWN

Lemons – Although supplies are still limited, the increase in offshore product has helped the market. The “District 3” lemons out of the Coachella Valley have also started and helping to keep supply lines filled. We are still at least a month away from seeing any major relief in the market.

Limes – Increased volume of supplies are starting to come out of Veracruz, Mexico and we will see prices gradually improve as we proceed into September. Quality has been nice on all sizes, despite rain in the growing area.

Oranges – While the California Valencia crop is still in an extreme demand exceeds supply situation, we are continuing to ship nice, offshore navel oranges at a reasonable price.

TOMATOES: *Cherry Tomatoes* – MARKET UP

We are continuing to ship Michigan tomatoes in most varieties. The season doesn't seem to be shaping up as well for the round varieties (5x6, 4x5) as it usually does. Prices have held steady in the low to mid \$20s range, but what has been more concerning is the lack of ripeness and occasional quality concerns. We have had reports of the fruit actually going bad before it ripens to ideal readiness in addition to occasional spotting. We are making every effort to ripen the round variety tomatoes as much as possible before we ship them so that our customers have ready to use product. The roma, grape, and cherry tomatoes have had a much better season. We are also continuing to ship Michigan heirloom and mixed cherry tomatoes from Ingraberg Farms and Gass Farms. Mixed cherry tomatoes are also still available from RecoveryPark Farms.

RECOVERYPARK FARMS: LOCALLY GROWN IN DETROIT

We have plenty of bunched baby rainbow carrots w/ tops in stock! 5 LB cases for \$25. Knockout Mix, baby beets, baby radishes, nasturtiums, nasturtium leaves and marigolds will continue to be available. There are also limited quantities of baby kale mix and Chene Ferry Market lettuce mix. Call your sales representative for more details.