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## Market Alerts

**LETTUCE** Quality is good to fair on all whole head lettuces, and pricing is higher than normal on **Romaine, Romaine Hearts and Green Leaf**. Consider using **Iceberg** as a substitute.

**GRAPES** The Chilean grape season is approaching its end, and quality is beginning to decline on both Red and Green Grapes, with Reds being the better value.

**BERRIES** Supplies of **Blackberries** and **Raspberries** are very light, due to slow early harvests in central California, and the ending of Mexico's crop. Pricing may be higher than normal in certain markets, and quality is good. **Strawberries** and **Blueberries** will be a better buy for the coming week.

**ORANGES** The severe shortage of **Oranges** has reached the point where certain sizes are largely unavailable. Orders for **113 CT, 138 CT and 163 CT** fruit are very likely to be shorted, or substituted with an **88 CT or larger size**. We recommend **88 CT, 72 CT or larger Oranges** be used through the end of the **Navel** season in early spring.

**SQUASH Yellow and Zucchini (Italian) Squash** supplies are in a short gap, due to field transitions in both Mexico and the Southeast. Quality is good, but pricing may be higher than normal, with **Medium-sized Zucchini** being the best value.

## A Peek at Peak Seasons

**Cantaloupe:** Supplies of Central American-grown melons are great quality, with high sugar levels.

**Tomatoes:** Mexico and Florida's early spring harvests are very strong. Supplies of Round, Roma and Grape Tomatoes are plentiful and quality is very good for this time of year.

**Ramps:** This wild onion with a pungent flavor grows during a very short season in early to mid-spring. Ask your distributor for availability.

**Fiddlehead Ferns:** Another spring crop with a short season, this tightly wound vegetable has a taste and texture similar to asparagus. Ask your distributor for availability.

**Brussels Sprouts:** Supplies are plentiful and quality is very nice, with vibrant color and firmness.

**Bell Peppers:** The harvest of Green Bell Peppers is abundant. Quality and pricing are very good, with choice-grade product being the best value.

## Weather Update

**California:** Cooler temperatures, gusty winds and light rains expected across the central growing regions through most of the week.

**Mexico:** Above average temperatures throughout the country, with dry conditions in the northern regions.

**Florida:** Below average temperatures and showers expected for the beginning of the week, followed by warmer, drier conditions through the weekend.

# Commodities at a Glance

 APPLES	Quality and pricing are good	 CELERY	Quality and pricing are good	 LETTUCE LEAF	Quality is fair; pricing is higher
 ASPARAGUS	Quality is good, pricing is higher on most sizes	 CITRUS (LEMONS)	Quality and pricing are good	 LETTUCE TENDER LEAF	Quality and pricing are good
 AVOCADO	Quality is good, pricing is fair	 CITRUS (LIMES)	Quality and pricing are good	 MELON (CANTALOUPE)	Quality and pricing are good
 BELL PEPPERS	Quality and pricing are good	 CITRUS (ORANGES)	Quality is good, sizes are running large, pricing is higher	 MELON (HONEYDEW)	Quality is good, pricing is slightly higher
 BERRIES (BLACKBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing may be higher	 CUCUMBERS	Quality and pricing are good	 MELON (WATERMELON)	Quality and pricing are good
 BERRIES (BLUEBERRIES)	Quality and pricing are good	 EGGPLANT	Quality and pricing are good	 ONIONS	Quality and pricing are good
 BERRIES (RASPBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing may be higher	 GARLIC	Quality is fair; pricing is higher	 PEARS	Quality and pricing are good
 BERRIES (STRAWBERRIES)	Quality and pricing are good	 GRAPES (GREEN)	Quality is fair; pricing is higher	 PINEAPPLES	Quality and pricing are good
 BROCCOLI	Quality and pricing are good	 GRAPES (RED)	Quality is fair; pricing is good	 POTATOES	Quality is good, pricing is higher. 90 CT and smaller sizes are the best value.
 BRUSSELS SPROUTS	Quality and pricing are good	 GREEN ONIONS	Quality and pricing are good	 POTATOES (COLORED)	Quality and pricing are good
 CARROTS	Quality and pricing are good	 KALE	Quality and pricing are good	 SQUASH	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 CAULIFLOWER	Quality and pricing are good	 LETTUCE ICEBERG	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 TOMATOES	Quality and pricing are good