May 28, 2013

Re: Crop Shortage Notice

To all Vendors,

Lipman is currently working through the final stages of our Florida tomato crop. We will finish our crown harvest in Ruskin, Florida this week. I have attached some photographs of our tomato plants that were hit with Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl, a virus that dramatically effects yield. This has impacted the majority of our crop. In addition to yield reduction, afternoon rain showers and above normal temperatures in April reduced the crop life as well. We will be finishing Florida production ahead of projection.

Our next area of production, South Carolina, was originally projected for the first week of June. Due to colder than normal weather patterns we will not be starting this crop until mid-June.

The combination of a hurt Florida crop and a late summer start to the home grown season will cause a shortage of supply in the market place. Lipman’s production will be reduced to 35-40% from normal for the next two to three weeks.

Therefore, we will be requesting relief on all contractual agreements until normal supply resumes.  This will be approximately June 20.

We appreciate your support through these times

Sincerely,

Darren P. Micelle

 