

# Nogales *UPDATE*



*Cold fronts moving into growing regions of Central Mexico and Western Mexico will create lighter supplies. Sonora, Colima, Jalisco, Guanajuato, and Sinaloa will all feel temperatures drop to varying degrees with some potentially getting frost. Quality, condition, and availability on some items was also been impacted by temperatures in October, November and part of December. This resulted in production impacts due to high white fly activity and viral issues on some products that contributed to poor quality/condition and decreased production. Items showing the most issues have been squash, cucumbers, and bell peppers. Moving forward to this week, cool damp weather (minor rain) is now impacting bell pepper, eggplant and cucumbers as well to a greater degree.*

## Squash – Yellow & Zucchini:

Supplies are very light and quality has been severely impacted on many lots showing misshapen, scarring, and discoloration due to the white fly damage.

## Cucumbers:

Growers continue to battle both cold temperatures and rain, and are now feeling the effects of the fields taken over by disease in early December. Product is becoming scarce and the market is on the rise.

## Eggplant:

Supply has become very tight on all sizes. As most other Mainland Mexican commodities, cooler weather in the growing regions have caused production to slow. Quality has been outstanding, overall, but recently some liver spotting, softness, and misshape have been reported. Expect eggplant to remain strong over the upcoming weeks.

## Bell Peppers

Market is getting stronger with increased demand. Quality issues present are scarring, misshape, and thin walls. Look for these conditions to remain and markets to increase.

# YUMA Alert



***Warmer than normal temperatures in the Yuma desert region has caused unusually high growth rates in November which has now created a gap in production. The colder January temperatures and morning frost/ice are making the challenge even greater. Industry-wide estimates for the current reduction in lettuce availability are a decrease of 30%, with a decrease of 50% for broccoli. To make matters worse, a cold front will arrive Friday, bringing lows to the mid 30s within Yuma proper. Outlying areas such as the Imperial Valley may see lows in the high 20s. To further salt the wound, blister defect has worsened to full epidermal peel across all lettuces, and should be compounded next week due to this weekend's freeze. The market conditions and commodity shortages are anticipated to continue through the month of January.***

## **Iceberg Lettuce:**

For palletized Iceberg lettuce the **condition and quality are poor for the desert-southwest**. Common defects found are blister (epidermal peel), and occasional defects due to dehydration / weak texture, and decay / bottom rot. The majority of suppliers are selling out daily on iceberg. Most shippers are at 80% of normal volume. Demand is strong. Expect the market to continue to climb due to short supply.



## **Romaine:**

Current Romaine condition and quality are poor to fair. Most defects are due to blister and mildew, and occasional defects due to ribbiness, seeder, decay, dehydration, cupping, and twisting. Demand is strong. Expect the market to continue to climb due to short supply.



## **Green and Red leaf:**

Current Green and Red Leaf condition and quality are poor to fair. Defects found are blister, mildew, and occasional defects due to over sizing, underweight (tall lettuce that has been trimmed of its outer leaves due to defects), discoloration, dehydration, and mechanical damage. Demand is strong. Expect the market to continue to climb due to short supply.

## **Broccoli, Cauliflower and Celery:**

Current broccoli and cauliflower condition and quality remain fair with defects in broccoli due to open bead and hollow core, while cauliflower continues to exhibit occasional discoloration. The real challenge with broccoli is the 50% decrease in production mentioned above. **Celery:** Condition and quality are good, occasional defects due to brittleness and discoloration. We anticipate higher markets due to supply shortages on broccoli, cauliflower and celery for the next 3-4 weeks



## **Spinach/Spring Mix:**

Current spinach condition and quality is good, occasional defects due to mechanical damage. Spring mix condition and quality are fair, few defects due to mildew, and component availability remains a struggle. Both of these tender leaf items will be affected by the colder temperatures and production will fall off.

## **Arugula:**

Supplies of regular Arugula are **tight** and quality is fair, with some yellowing of leaves. Supplies of wild arugula are **extremely tight** and quality is fair due to cold weather and some yellowing of leaves.

## **Green Onions:**

Green Onions continue to be very active and short in supply. With the recent low temperatures and rain down in Mexicali, the industry has struggled with sizing, yields and quality. Green Onion production continues to be strongly impacted by the large labor shortage in the Mexicali growing region vastly due in part to the frigid temperatures and recent weekend rains. This will continue to affect supply by directly dropping yields due to poor quality, light stands and small sized crop. We expect the current market condition to remain for the next 2-3 weeks

# Additional Commodity Alert



## Cilantro:

The Cilantro market is a demand exceed market as the extremely cold weather down in Mexico has slowed down production growth. Oxnard/Ventura County production has also been stunted due to the steady rainfall we have experienced for the past month. This quality defect is due to the water stress on the plant resulting in the discoloration or purpling on the stem and leaf. Mexicali has also shared in colder night time temps and freeze alerts, but the rainfall has been minimal. The product quality out of Mexico remains good, but supply remains extremely limited.

## Leeks and Kale:

Growth is slowing down with the shorter daylight hours and the shift to frigid night-time temperatures. Both Leeks and Kale are showing significant spikes in pricing as all production in the Mexicali Valley is also suffering from these extremely cold temperatures.

## Imported Grapes

The grape market remains active due to limited supplies and poor quality on the remaining storage grapes. In addition there has been insect damage reported along with a possible quarantine of the fruit. Portion grapes are very limited in supply as well. Market is expected to remain active for the next 10 days

## Imported Asparagus

The asparagus supply situation has become much worse in the past few days. Very cold temperatures in Caborca Mexico are having a severe impact on the oncoming crop from that region. Coupled with production from Peru winding down (as it naturally does during this time of the year), we are looking at extreme shortages of asparagus in North America. Generally, we want to see 3 consecutive days of highs of 70+ and Lows of 40+ to get production from Caborca kick-started and while the highs we are seeing for the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> are promising the 15 degree drop on Friday is very concerning and temperatures are expected to drop lower for the weekend. Markets have reacted very strongly to the lack of product. This is an industry wide situation which will not resolve itself until we start to see production from Caborca. Looking at the weather forecast, we would not expect to start seeing enough volume for another two weeks.

## Dry Onions - Northwest

Fall yields on all storage onions were lower than expected, especially on red onions. The supplies have also been impacted by poor pack outs on some larger lots of red onions. This coupled with delayed starting on new crop onions out of Mexico has put this market in a demand exceed supply situation. The spring crops in Texas have also been impacted by weather and disease. This market will remain strong throughout the late winter and early spring especially on red onions.