

## OVERVIEW:

**Herb Alert:** Hurricane-force winds and firestorms in Southern California and Baja have severely impacted herb production, particularly Sage, Tarragon, and Basil. Recovery depends on rising temperatures, with potential improvements by mid-February if warming trends continue. However, limited availability may extend into March if cooler temperatures persist.

**Yuma Challenges:** Yuma is experiencing chilly mornings, winds, and frost, impacting harvest and leading to decreased supplies. Lettuce and Leafy Greens are particularly affected, with icing and blistering on some items. Arugula and Lettuce are being monitored. Endive, Escarole, Cilantro, Fennel, and Spinach remain escalated. Bok Choy and Leeks are extremely limited.

Strong production is coming out of South Florida with good quality and availability, though Shishito peppers remain light. Similar conditions exist in Nogales and McAllen. Yellow Squash, Butternut Squash, and Domestic Eggplant are also limited. Imported Table Grape supply has stabilized, and Honeydew volume is increasing. Flexibility on sizing will be key for Honeydew. Banana supply is tight but should improve gradually. Pineapple remains limited. Avocado inventories have improved for the Super Bowl, stabilizing prices. Large fruit is at a premium. Grade 2 fruit from Mexico is prevalent. Warmer weather and rain are expected next week in Yuma, which should improve conditions. Remember that some grower items do not transfer to Yuma, resulting in additional fees.

## ALERT LIST:

### ESCALATED

Asparagus, Avocados, Red Cabbage, Cilantro, Endive, Escarole, Fennel, Shishito Peppers, Limes (Some), Cantaloupe, Honeydew, Napa Cabbage, Parsley, Spinach

### EXTREME

Bok Choy, Fresh Herbs, Organic Celery, Leeks

## WATCH LIST:

Banana, Pineapple, Broccolini, Arugula, Green Cabbage, Cauliflower, Iceberg & Romaine Lettuce, Ginger, Snow Peaks, Sugar Snap Peas, Yellow Squash



**Strawberries – Fairly good demand on steady pricing.** Santa Maria – Very low volume. Quality fair to good. Oxnard – slow production with some quality issues due to rain/cold. C-Mex volume headed towards peak. Quality improving with better weather conditions. Baja some light volume. Florida – volume and quality improving on better weather conditions.



**Blackberries – Fairly good demand on steady pricing.** California volume low with good quality. CMex still increasing weekly with 92% of overall production. Overall good quality. Baja minimal volume.



**Raspberries – Good demand on slightly higher pricing** California and Baja low and steady volumes. Good quality/flavor. CMex production dropping. Overall good quality.



**Blueberries – Fairly good demand on steady pricing.** Peru volumes continue decline. Fair to good quality. C-Mex volumes continue to increase. Good quality & flavor w/ low defects. Baja ramping up going forward. Good quality, flavor & clean.



**Cucumbers – Persian:** Better supplies out of Baja continue. Good weather is keeping the pricing from increasing. **English & Slicer:** Good supply and quality from Nogales, McAllen, and Honduras.



**Green Onions** – Good quality and supplies.



**Potatoes** – No major changes are expected for potatoes soon. Larger sizes are more plentiful now. Expect tighter supplies and potential price increases as growers transition to Burbank varieties later in the first quarter.



**Broccoli, Florets & Crowns** – Improved quality and supply. Cold weather is slowing growth, and floret minis are tight.



**Tomatoes** – Tomato supplies are good with strong quality across all varieties from both the East Coast and Mexico. East Coast production is in full swing, while Mexico is providing steady volumes. Expect stable markets for round and roma tomatoes despite slightly cooler weather on the East Coast. Snacking tomatoes also have good availability and quality.



**Broccolini/Sweet Baby Broccoli** – Good quality and supplies.



**Chili Peppers** – Mexico chili markets are tightening. Prices are increasing due to a combination of increased demand and reports of lower quality, despite favorable growing conditions. Expect further price hikes in the coming days and weeks, though overall prices remain lower than usual for this time of year.



**Avocados** – Market remains escalated. Last week's US volume dropped 20%. Small avocados are plentiful, 48 and larger are tighter. Expect a shorter harvest this week due to Constitution Day in Mexico. California production is ahead of last year.



**Melons – Cantaloupe:** Limited production, especially large sizes. Shipping delays persist. Expect lighter supplies for 3+ weeks. 12/15s are prevalent. Good quality. **Honeydew:** Increased production has resolved supply issues. Prices are decreasing. Good availability of 5/6s with excellent flavor.



**Asparagus** – Low volumes from Caborca/San Luis due to cold. Peruvian volume decreasing.



**Artichokes** – Improved supplies, market no longer escalated. Quality is improving.



**Corn** – Stable supply and good quality from Mexico and Florida.



**Parsley** – Improved supplies and quality for both Italian and Curly.



**Green, Red & Napa Cabbage** – **Green:** Improved supply and quality, but cold weather may impact future availability. **Napa:** Improving quality and supply, but insect pressure is present. **Red:** Prices remain high due to limited supplies.



**Cauliflower** – Good quality and supply, but frost is impacting growth and may cause future shortages. Weaker texture and some damage reported.



**Fennel** – Low yields are causing supply shortages and keeping prices high.



**Kale** – Good quality and improved supplies.



**Bell Peppers** – Good supply and quality for green and colored bell peppers from Nogales and South Florida.



**Onions** – Expect higher prices for stored onions from the Pacific Northwest. White onions are especially tight. Mexican imports should bring some relief in mid-February, but red onions may stay expensive until the California spring/summer season. The Texas crop is still unpredictable and could be affected by weather.



**Bok Choy** – Good quality but very limited supplies.



**Lettuce, Iceberg & VA Blends** – Adequate supplies but frost damage is causing lighter weights, blistering, and weak tips. Production delays expected. Virginia Iceberg is currently good, but cold may impact it soon.



**Lettuce, Romaine & VA Blends** – Steady supplies, but frost is impacting quality. Lighter weights and quality issues are present. Cold may affect future supplies. Virginia Romaine is currently good but vulnerable to cold.



**Lettuce, Red & Green Leaf** – Good quality and supplies for now, but frost damage is evident and could soon impact availability.



**Leeks** – Very limited availability.



**Spinach** – Some quality issues reported (weak texture, discoloration, wilting). Market prices rising. Frost damage is a concern.



**Pineapple** – Pineapples are in short supply and will likely remain tight until the end of February. Peak volume is expected in May. Flexibility with sizing will be essential over the next few weeks.



**Ginger** – Stable supply and market.



**Carrots** – Jumbo carrots limited, other sizes steady with good quality.



**Celery** – Improving quality and supply. Some weak texture and mechanical damage. Organic celery extremely limited.



**Brussel Sprouts** – Good quality and supplies.



**Lemons** – Desert lemon season is ending, with production finishing mid-February. However, good supplies from Districts 1 and 2 will prevent overall shortages. Quality remains good.



**Limes** – Market is stable with improved quality from the new Mexican crop, but rain has increased oil spotting and breakdown. Smaller limes are plentiful, but large sizes will be scarce, leading to a tighter market in February.



**Mandarins/Grapefruit/Specialties** – California Mandarin and Grapefruit supplies are strong with excellent quality. Cara Cara oranges have promotable volumes continuing into January, and Blood Orange volumes are increasing with very good quality.



**Oranges** – CA oranges continue to show excellent quality and strong supply. Larger sizes are becoming more available, which should help stabilize the market for small fruit.



**Eggplant** – Good supply from Mexico, limited domestic availability.



**Watermelon** – Stable supply with light demand. Fruit is being harvested from Central Mexico.



**Mushrooms** – Stable supply and good quality.



**Snow Peas & Sugar Snaps** – Strong markets in the West. Guatemalan production improving, but humidity may affect quality. Domestic supply gap continues. Mexican production steady.



**Bananas** – Imports are tight but should improve next week. Recent weather and logistical challenges have impacted global supply. Minor pro-rates are possible. Monitor ripeness closely, as some fruit may require warmer storage or wrapping.



**Table Grapes** – Good quality grapes are readily available in white, red, globe, and black varieties from Peru and Chile.



**Garlic** – Good quality California garlic with lighter supplies.



**Green Beans** – Good supply and quality from Nogales and Florida.



**Zucchini/Yellow Squash**– Good supply and quality for zucchini. Yellow squash supplies are tighter.



**Mexican Maridol Papaya** – Steady avocado volumes from Colima and Nayarit, Mexico are keeping prices low. Promotions are ongoing, and no changes are expected next month.



**Jicama** – Now in new La Paz crop, with excellent quality.



**Chayote Squash** – Volumes have tightened up and pricing up as well, but product is still steady in demand.



**Loose Poly Radish** – Cold temps in Florida, has slowed production and harvesting numbers. Demand has been on the weaker side not allowing for higher prices. 2nd labels with inferior quality coming out of California.



**Parsnips**– Stable, strong supplies from Oregon. Great quality, stable supplies & prices. Supplies should run through April/May.



**Turnips**– Weather in Oregon is cold with chances of snow coming. This will impact the quality and there is no point risking quality claims with New Crop California product. Prices continue to drop because of the heavy supplies with new crops out of California, Texas and Arizona. Because of the oversupply, prices continue to drop.



**Rutabaga** –Strong supplies out of Oregon. Great quality with stable supplies & prices. New CA crop has started. Stable market.



**Beets** – Stable supplies with good quality out of Oregon. Prices dropped a little with increased supplies out of California, Yuma, Texas and Mexico.



**Fresh Herbs** – Basil, Sage, Tarragon (Escalated): Supplies extremely limited due to cold temperatures and high winds impacting plant growth. Warmer weather expected in the coming weeks should improve conditions.  
Arugula & Cilantro (Escalated): Frost damage is causing limited supplies, small uneven bunches, purple stems, and mechanical issues. Some growers are prorating.