

The Source

Commodity of the Month - Romaine Lettuce



MARKET ALERTS

Blackberries - Limited supply and the quality is fair.

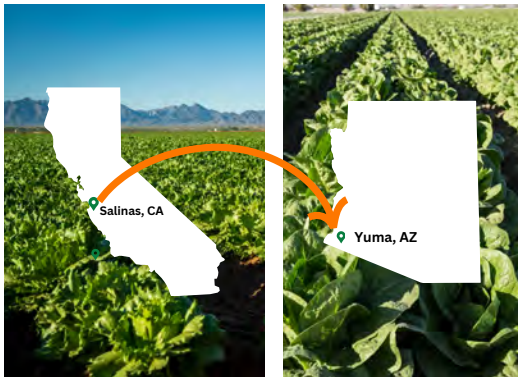
Strawberries - Limited supply and the quality is good.

NOVEMBER 15, 2023

CROP UPDATES

A low pressure system off the California coast is expected to bring light to moderate rainfall to California this weekend, with heavier rainfall expected in Southern California and Northern Baja. The system will also impact crops in the Salinas Valley, strawberry supplies in the Oxnard region, and Yuma region. Heavy precipitation is expected in Florida, affecting tomato, bean, bell pepper, cucumber, eggplant, and squash production. [Read more](#)

Fall Transition



We are moving into the colder months in the Salinas Valley, which means it's time for the big Transition!

Stay informed on the availability of the products you purchase.

[Transition 2023-2024 Calendar](#)

WEATHER

Arizona - Dry through Wednesday, with warm mornings and cooler afternoons. Model guidance shows moisture stream in low deserts, sporadic showers, and a chance of rain on Saturday.

California - On Monday, lows persist with cool afternoon highs, with gusty southerly winds and a slight chance of rain through Tuesday, followed by light to moderate rain through Friday.

Florida - Midweek showers and t-storms are expected, with gusty easterly winds and heavy flooding. North Florida expects high temperatures in the upper 60s to mid-70s.

Mexico - Over the next five days, temperatures are expected to be mostly dry, with seasonal variations and low frost concerns.

FREIGHT

Shipper delays are common in new growing regions, with transition and move to Yuma from Salinas almost complete, and limited PNW truck supply.

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LOGISTICS

AT PEAK SEASON



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Commodities at a Glance

Commodity/Region Supply Price Quality



Apples

Hudson, New York
(September - June)

Steady

\$\$\$

Good



Asparagus

Caborca
(Year Round)

Light

\$\$\$

Good

Ciudad Obregon
(Year Round)

Steady

\$\$\$

Fair

Peru
(Year Round)

Steady

\$\$\$

Good



Avocados

Mexico
(Year Round)

Steady

\$\$\$

Good



Bell Peppers

California
(May-October)

steady

\$\$\$

Good

Florida
(November - May)

Steady

\$\$\$

Good

Commodity/Region Supply Price Quality



Berries (Blackberries)

ALERT

California
(Year Round)

Light

\$\$\$

Fair

McAllen, Texas
(October-May)

Light

\$\$\$

Fair



Berries (Blueberries)

California
(Year Round)

Steady

\$\$\$

Good

Dover, Florida
(Year Round)

Steady

\$\$\$

Good

McAllen, Texas
(October-May)

Light

\$\$\$

Good



Berries (Raspberries)

California
(Year Round)

High

\$\$\$

Good

Dover, Florida
(Year Round)

Light

\$\$\$

Good

McAllen, Texas
(October - May)

Steady

\$\$\$

Good



Berries (Strawberries)

ALERT

California
(Year Round)

Light

\$\$\$

Fair

Dover, Florida
(Year Round)

Steady

\$\$\$

Fair

McAllen, Texas
(October-May)

Light

\$\$\$

Good



Commodities at a Glance

Commodity/Region

Supply

Price

Quality



Broccoli

Mexico (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Poor
Salinas, California (May-October)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair
Santa Maria, California (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair



Brussel Sprouts

Mexico (December-August)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair
Oxnard, California (May-July)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair
Salinas, California (July-December)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair



Carrots

Various Northwest Regions (July-October)	Light	\$\$\$	Excellent
Kern County, California (May-July) (October-February)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good



Cauliflower

Mexico (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair
Salinas, California (May-October)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair
Santa Maria, California (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair



Celery

Oxnard, California (Year Round)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair
Salinas, California (May-August)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair



Citrus (Lemons)

Oxnard/ Ventura County (February-September)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair
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Citrus (Limes)

Veracruz (Year Round)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair
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Citrus (Oranges)

California Desert/Yuma (April-November)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
San Joaquin Valley (Year Round)	Light	\$\$\$	Good



Commodities at a Glance

Commodity/Region Supply Price Quality



Cucumbers

Florida (November - May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
Georgia (June-October)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
Mexico (November - May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good



Eggplant

California (May-October)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
Georgia (June - October)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Mexico (November - May)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good



Garlic

East Coast (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Bakersfield, California (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Gilroy, California (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good



Grapes (Green)

San Joaquin Valley (June-November)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
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Commodity/Region Supply Price Quality



Grapes (Red)

San Joaquin Valley (June-December)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
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Green Onions

Mexico (Year Round)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
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Kale

Mexico (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Oxnard, California (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Salinas, California (May-October)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good



Lettuce Iceberg

Mexico (Year Round)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair
Oxnard, California (March-June)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair
Salinas, California (May-October)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair
Santa Maria, California (March-December)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair



Commodities at a Glance

Commodity/Region Supply Price Quality



Lettuce Leaf

Mexico (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Oxnard, California (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Salinas, California (May-October)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Yuma, Arizona (November-May)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good



Lettuce Tender Leaf

Mexico (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair
Oxnard, California (Year Round)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair
Salinas, California (May-October)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair



Melon (Cantaloupe)

Arizona (June-July) (October-November)	Steady	\$\$\$	Excellent
Central America (December - May)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair



Melon (Honeydew)

Arizona (June-July) (October-November)	High	\$\$\$	Excellent
Central America (December - May)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair

Commodity/Region Supply Price Quality



Melon (Watermelon)

Central America (December - May)	Steady	\$\$\$	Excellent
Arizona (June-July) (October-November)	Steady	\$\$\$	Excellent



Mushroom

Nationwide	Light	\$\$\$	Good
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Onions

South Texas (July-April)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair
Tri-Cities, Washington (July-April)	High	\$\$\$	Excellent
Eastern Oregon/Parma, ID (August-April)	High	\$\$\$	Excellent
San Joaquin Valley (May-August)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair
Hatch, New Mexico (July-April)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair



Pears

Hood River, Oregon (August-July)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Yakima, Washington (August-July)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good



Commodities at a Glance

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
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Pineapples

Costa Rica (Year round)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
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Potatoes

Bancroft, Wisconsin (August-July)	Steady	\$\$\$	Excellent
Idaho Falls, Idaho (August-July)	High	\$\$\$	Excellent
Monte Vista, Colorado (August-July)	Steady	\$\$\$	Excellent
Pasco, Washington (August-July)	High	\$\$\$	Excellent



Squash

Florida November - May	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Mexico (November-May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good



Stone Fruit

San Joaquin Valley (May-October)	High	\$\$\$	Fair
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Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
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Tomatoes

Baja California (Spring/Summer-November)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
Mexico (Year Round)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
Florida (November-May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good



Commodity Updates

Apples

All major varieties of the new crop are now being packed. Apple production in Washington state increased by over 28% from last year. Michigan's apple crop is only slightly down from last year's record crop. The release date of Cosmic Crisp has been moved up to November 20.

Asparagus

As fields in southern Baja transition and newer growing areas in Sonora start, Mexican asparagus production is reducing. Because of storms and erratic weather patterns this year, the seasonality of these fields has been shifted to later, creating sudden flushes but not overall tonnage increases. The past hurricane affected growing areas in northern Sinaloa and southern Sonora, causing more product to be harvested at once than planned. Quality has been OK, not great due to seeding and dehydration, but with the weather cooling, quality and yields should improve. The southern growing areas of Peru continue to produce asparagus, but some fields, like those in Ica and Chincha, have already closed for the year. It is expected that the weather in Peru will only get hotter in the coming days and weeks and this may affect the production of asparagus in December and January. The northern fields are mostly ready and had been predicted to be harvested by late November, but now this could be pushed back to early December.

Avocados

There are no triggers in effect: markets are steady at slightly lower levels. Adventajada is the main crop, with a little Flora Loca fruit in the mix. There are about a week left before Flora Loca crops are no longer available. In Adventajada, there is a higher percentage of #2 grade fruit available in all sizes.

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Commodity Updates



Crops are transitioning further south, resulting in a moderate supply. The East is moving from GA to FL, while the West will primarily depend on Coachella for supply since Nogales is a 7-10 day late start.



As with Mexican strawberries, blackberries have been affected by adverse weather conditions produced by recent El Nino and hurricane events. Rains and high humidity have caused much of production to be thrown away.



Container arrivals at the ports are causing markets to slowly ease off. As of now, shippers have not rescinded their AOG enactments, and there is still a shortage of the product. Despite inclement weather, Mexican production is expected to ramp up moderately over the next few weeks. Chilean products have been arriving via air containers in limited numbers. It is expected that Mexican production will begin to ramp up moderately over the next few weeks as the weather improves.

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Commodity Updates

Berries (Raspberries)

There are good numbers of fruits entering the US through San Diego and going into Santa Maria and Oxnard for distribution. Crossing in from Central Mexico, McAllen Texas has decent supplies.

Berries (Strawberries)

Central Mexico has been crossing light numbers due to quality issues. We should see numbers slowly build out of this area over the next several weeks. Salinas and Watsonville are done for the season with some shippers still bringing in very small amounts of fruit. There are only a few defects reported, including small sizing and bruising. Santa Maria has experienced lower yields and smaller sizing during the late season. Oxnard reports steady numbers but lighter numbers due to cooler winter temperatures and shorter daylight hours. Florida is just beginning to scratch the surface of its first offerings, with good quality and good sizing reported out of this area. In December, we should see an increase in numbers from this area, weather permitting.

Broccoli

In both Salinas and Santa Maria, broccoli supplies remain tight. The Salinas season is winding down with lower yields. As we move into next week, expect the market to continue to rise. However, Mexico's supplies are good.

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Commodity Updates

Brussel Sprouts

There continues to be a slight improvement in Brussels sprout supply. Salinas and Oxnard's size and production are improving. We expect this market to decline slightly next week.

Carrots

There is a higher demand for California carrots due to the lack of size in all other growing regions. Shippers continue to monitor numbers. Lancaster's summer season continues. The season will last until the end of November/early December. In Bakersfield, we will then begin the Fall season at the end of February.

Cauliflower

As the Salinas season draws to a close, cauliflower supplies are tightening. As we move into next week, we can expect the market to continue to rise. The quality is okay, showing some yellow discoloration and mildew.

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Commodity Updates



Celery

Salinas has finished production, and Yuma won't start until late December. As a result, Santa Maria/Oxnard is being asked to meet the holiday demand. Harvesting is very limited on the east coast. The market will remain active throughout the week. The largest sizes continue to be the most readily available. Markets are escalating. Overall, quality continues to be above average.



Citrus (Lemons)

Right now, District 3 (California desert/Arizona) is the main growing region. It has been a very light start for District 1 (Central Valley). The markets are steady. There will be some relief when District 1 ramps up, bringing more fruit to market.



Citrus (Limes)

Market conditions have weakened and demand is light. There is still a shortage of big fruit compared to smaller sizes. The Martinez, VC supply should be sufficient to meet demand until mid-December, then it will start to dwindle again and be tight again from January through April.

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Commodity Updates

Citrus (Oranges)

Valencias are finished; navels are the most common variety. There will be severe shortages on all sizes for the next 7-10 days due to low brix levels preventing shippers from harvesting full force. The current gas times are 72-96 hours (3-4 days); the current brix is 10-11. Recently, colder nighttime temperatures have begun, reducing gassing times and increasing Brix. In the coming weeks, availability will improve.

Cucumbers

There is a gap in eastern supply between GA and FL, FL will go through mid-Dec, and then Honduran imports will begin. The supply out of Sinaloa is light after Hurricane Norma, quality is fair, and better supplies are expected in about two weeks.

Eggplant

As MX supplies increase, prices have softened. FL volume is increasing as GA declines, Fresno and Coachella will experience the first frost as Nogales supplies increase-good quality in Nogales.

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Commodity Updates

Garlic

Throughout the week, California's production is expected to remain steady. Quality has been reported to be good.

Grapes (Green)

California grapes recovered better than expected from tropical storm Hillary. It is expected that many growers will continue to ship through the end of November. There is a greater supply of green seedless than red seedless. Within the next couple of weeks, domestic red globes will be finished. Peruvian and Brazilian imports have already begun. Now there are more greens than reds, but red seedless volume will increase in December. For the next 6-8 weeks, this market is expected to remain elevated. Imports from Chile will begin in mid- to late-January.

Grapes (Red)

California grapes recovered better than expected from tropical storm Hillary. It is expected that many growers will continue to ship through the end of November. There is a greater supply of green seedless than red seedless. Within the next couple of weeks, domestic red globes will be finished. Peruvian and Brazilian imports have already begun. Now there are more greens than reds, but red seedless volume will increase in December. For the next 6-8 weeks, this market is expected to remain elevated. Imports from Chile will begin in mid- to late-January.



Commodity Updates

Green Onions

There is a good supply of green onions and the market remains steady. The market will have good supplies as the week progresses.

Kale

The kale supply and quality are good heading into the weekend. Now is a good opportunity to promote kale!

Lettuce Iceberg

The production in Yuma is stronger. Since Salinas has very little left and Huron has finished, this commodity is less available than in past weeks. Yuma's new crop is clean, but weights typically range from thirty-four to thirty-nine pounds. Throughout the week, the market is expected to be stronger. On Wednesday of this week, value-added items will escalate. The contracts are already escalated.

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Commodity Updates

Lettuce Leaf

Unlike other major row crops, romaine and green and red leaf have not been affected by the holiday pull. On average, most shippers are steady with their supplies despite some increases in pricing. The demand is fair. Huron is almost done with production, and Salinas is almost finished. Southern California has limited supplies. Apart from a few shippers, there is an ample supply of romaine hearts. Yuma's overall quality has been reported to be good, with only minor fringe burn and insect damage.

Lettuce Tender Leaf

Yuma's spinach and arugula supplies are looking good. Overall, Yuma's product has a great texture, size, and color.

Melon (Cantaloupe)

The offshore product is now available in Florida. Brix levels are 12-17, which is a great quality product. There are a limited number of 15s available, but other sizes are also available. There is a limited supply of domestic fruit, but it is available with a lead time. There is a limited supply of 15s, but they can be ordered with a lead time. Mexican fruit is readily available, and suppliers are interested in making deals. 9s and 12s are peaking.

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Commodity Updates

A close-up photograph of several slices of honeydew melon, showing the green rind and pale green flesh, some with a small amount of orange zest on top.

Melon (Honeydew)

The offshore product is now available in Florida. The product has great quality, with Brix levels of 12-17. Domestic fruit is very limited, but it is available with a lead time. Suppliers are eager to make deals with Mexican fruit, which is readily available. All sizes are peaking.

A photograph showing a large pile of small, round watermelons with green and dark green stripes. One watermelon in the center is cut open, revealing its red flesh and black seeds.

Melon (Watermelon)

Mexican watermelons are in good supply with shippers looking for deals. Containers or bins can be used to ship watermelons.

A photograph of several white button mushrooms arranged in a small, light-colored woven basket. Some mushrooms are also scattered on a wooden surface next to the basket.

Mushroom

The holiday demand is putting a strain on available supplies.



Commodity Updates

Onions

The Northwest has excellent availability and quality. The holiday demand is putting upward pressure on pricing. Lack of transportation is slowing movements.

Pears

California Pears will be finished by the end of the month. Washington Anjous is running large. After the holidays, foodservice sizes will be tight. Washington Bosc is running small. Foodservice sizes will be readily available.

Pineapples

Due to storms in the tropics and delays at the port of Caldera, pineapple supplies remain scarce. Due to excess storms, supplies are usually tight during this time of year. All sizes are affected, especially 7ct crowned. There are quality issues with Mexican pines, but they should be available by the end of the month.

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Commodity Updates

Potatoes

The market is elevated on 40 and 50 CT. High holiday demand keeps small potatoes firm. There is excellent availability on 60 - 90 CT. Movements are slowed by a lack of transportation.

Squash

The markets have been depressed for several weeks with a few growers leaving fields in GA and Sonora, coupled with cooler weather and transitions. By early December, FL will begin planting new crops and MX will start pulling from Sinaloa.

Stone Fruit

Plums are the last domestic stone fruit still being shipped. Black plums will be shipped through the end of November. Domestic pomegranates and persimmons are in full production. Persimmons will ship until mid-December. Pomegranates will ship into January. There is a good supply of California Kiwis. Slowly, the market is easing off its record highs from October. The domestic Kiwi will ship through March. Chilean Kiwi will begin in April.

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Commodity Updates



Tomatoes

Markets are strong for all varieties, especially grapes. California/Quincy are finished, Ruskin/Palmetto region has started light but volume will pick up next week, and MX supply is limited from Baja/Eastern MX. Until early January, expect an active market.

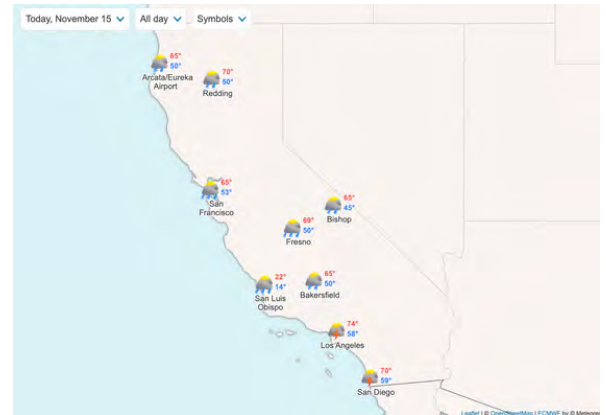
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Weather Updates



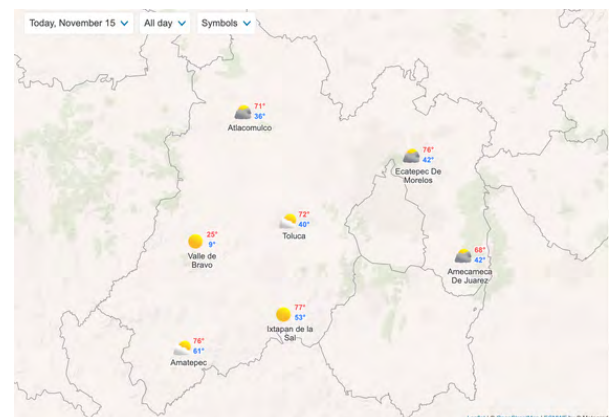
CALIFORNIA

On Monday, high pressure weakens, allowing for cold morning lows to persist, but cool afternoon highs as well. Lows in the morning will be in the upper 20s to low 30s south of King City, and in the mid 30s to upper 40s elsewhere, with daytime highs in the mid 60s to low 70s. The cut-off low enters the region Monday afternoon, causing gusty southerly winds and a slight chance of rain through Tuesday. Through Friday, when the low system comes ashore, bands of light to moderate rain will overspread the area.



MEXICO

We can expect mostly dry weather over the next five days. Through the middle of the week, temperatures will be mostly seasonal with little day-to-day variation. We may see some cooler mornings later in the week, but frost concerns appear low at the moment. Through Friday, maximum temperatures should range mostly in the low 70s to low 80s. A cold front stalls near the region, so morning temperatures should drop into the low-50s through Tuesday morning and the low 40s to low 50s through Wednesday and Friday morning.



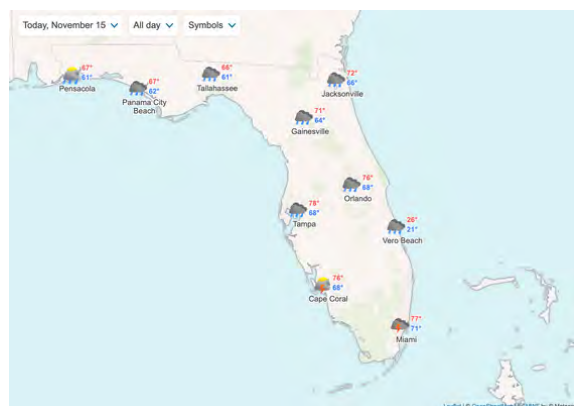
For more information: <https://www.ventusky.com/?p=31.4;-89.7;3&l=rain-3h>

Weather Updates



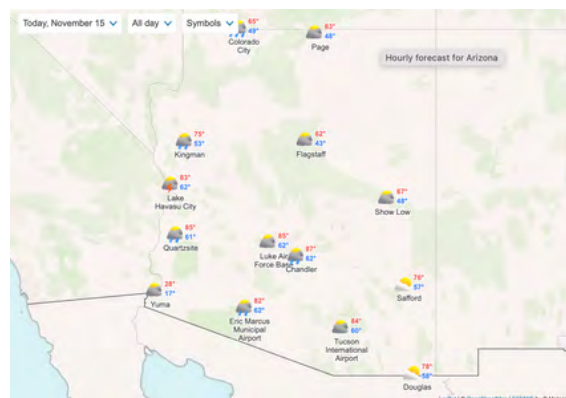
FLORIDA

By midweek, the chance for showers and t-storms will increase and become more likely after a mostly dry Monday. Over the next few days, gusty easterly winds will reach near 30 mph. There is a possibility of heavy flooding rains along the FL panhandle, with rainfall ranging from 2" to 4". In the rest of the state, rainfall will average between 1" and 2". North Florida will see high temperatures in the upper 60s to mid-70s through Thursday and mostly mid-70s to near 80 on Friday. From Wednesday through Friday, low temperatures will range from the mid-50s to the mid-60s.



ARIZONA

It will be dry through Wednesday with warm morning lows and cooler afternoon highs than average. The latest model guidance shows the cut-off low west of CA pulling a stream of moisture over the low deserts early Thursday morning, followed by sporadic showers through Saturday for most valleys. There is a chance of rain on Saturday with totals up to 1/4".



For more information: <https://www.ventusky.com/?p=31.4;-89.7;3&l=rain-3h>



Freight Updates

Shipper delays in new growing regions are prevalent. Transition and the move to Yuma from Salinas is (mostly) complete. PNW truck supply is very limited.



U.S. On-Highway Diesel Fuel Prices*(dollars per gallon)

[full history](#)

	10/30/23	11/06/23	11/13/23	Change from	
				week ago	year ago
U.S.	4.454	4.366	4.294	▼ -0.072	▼ -1.019
East Coast (PADD1)	4.342	4.294	4.220	▼ -0.074	▼ -1.254
New England (PADD1A)	4.537	4.523	4.483	▼ -0.040	▼ -1.577
Central Atlantic (PADD1B)	4.633	4.588	4.528	▼ -0.060	▼ -1.461
Lower Atlantic (PADD1C)	4.217	4.163	4.079	▼ -0.084	▼ -1.163
Midwest (PADD2)	4.441	4.334	4.308	▼ -0.026	▼ -1.013
Gulf Coast (PADD3)	4.115	4.032	3.927	▼ -0.105	▼ -0.959
Rocky Mountain (PADD4)	4.650	4.489	4.356	▼ -0.133	▼ -1.045
West Coast (PADD5)	5.348	5.258	5.139	▼ -0.119	▼ -0.630
West Coast less California	4.873	4.769	4.651	▼ -0.118	▼ -0.761
California	5.890	5.816	5.699	▼ -0.117	▼ -0.481

*prices include all taxes

For more information: <https://www.eia.gov/petroleum/gasdiesel/>



Crop Updates

A cut-off low pressure system stalls off the California coast moving very slowly eastward through the week. This system will bring bands of light to moderate rainfall to California this weekend. As the system meanders offshore, it is forecast to move to the south bringing heavier rainfall to the Southern California region. This system will also likely impact Northern Baja and possibly bring some light rain to the Southwest desert region as well.

The remaining crops in the Salinas Valley (brussels sprouts, broccoli, cauliflower, celery) will be impacted by rain and cooler temperatures over the next few days. To the south strawberry supplies in the Oxnard region of Southern California will take the brunt of the rainfall with 2-4 inches expected in these fields. Celery harvests in the region have recently begun and will also be impacted as this slow-moving system rolls through. Harvests in the Yuma region are gaining momentum with generally good quality to start the season. Early reports are showing some lighter carton weights due to lighter head densities (puffy heads and lighter hearts) small seeders and some ribbiness and twist in the romaine stands. This system is not expected to cause too many disruptions to harvests or quality in these desert regions currently.

Florida will also experience heavy precipitation due to 2 tropical systems, one off the coast of Southeast Florida and the other circulating in the Gulf of Mexico. This will impact Northern Florida and the Panhandle region. Lesser but significant rain is forecast for Central Florida through the week. Warm ocean temperatures continue to fuel these systems especially in the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico.

Production in Florida is gaining momentum as production moves south towards Central Florida. Florida growers are expecting lower than usual volumes, on their first/early planting, due to excessive heat causing plant stress during the blossoming stage. With local production in the Southeast wrapping up quickly and storms in the upcoming Florida production areas, overall supplies look to remain light into December. Tomatoes, beans bell peppers, cucumbers, eggplant and squash are all in the line of fire as this heavy rain impacts the state.

We will continue to follow the various weather events impacting production and keep you informed as we gather more information.



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