

the Fresh Press ALERT

Produce that's Fresh. Information that's to the Point.

Updated for April 5th, 2024

Arugula

ALERT!

Lower yields due to yellowing, creating tighter supplies, and growers are just meeting demand.

Avocados

ALERT!

Markets remain high. Inventory has started to improve following several weeks of limited harvest. Demand is softening due to higher markets and should soon stabilize. There will still be some challenges with supplies on small fruit and #2's until the pipeline is replenished. Flexibility on size and grade will be needed to fill orders.

Citrus—Lemons, Limes & Oranges

ALERT!

Increased demand on **lemons** and rising markets on medium to small size lemons (140cts and smaller) are tight in supply. Larger sizes are more prevalent; a significant shift towards larger fruit (115's and larger) is noted. 50-60% of the new **lime** crop volume is in small sizes with improved quality, and lower volume for 110/150cts is expected. High temperatures with little to no rain has caused sizing issues. Demand has decreased. **Oranges** are peaking on 40/36/56cts size Navels. Expect tight supplies and higher markets, especially for smaller size Navel oranges. CA Valencia oranges are anticipated to start by mid-to-late-April. Orange supply continues to be a challenge on the 113/138cts sizes. Suppliers are prorating up to 50%.



Grapes—Green & Red

ALERT!

The timing of vessels is essential to supply; if all forecasted cases arrive as expected, we should miss a gap before Mexico begins full production. **Green grapes** continue to be the most affected.

Melons—Watermelon

ALERT!

Watermelon continues to struggle with availability and quality and the market remains high.

Onions—Red, Yellow & White

ALERT!

The ID region is done; the PNW will go to the end of April. Quality is fair at best. Inventory from TX is filling the void from ID. Red onions are still very limited and keeping the market active.

Pears

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Small size pears are extremely limited with higher markets.



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Pineapple **ALERT!**

Supplies are tight especially on big sizes 5/6cts. Costa Rica has been short on rain, and this is hampering growth efforts. Supplies will remain tight for the next couple of weeks. Suppliers anticipate covering contracted volume, but substitute sizes may be needed to fill orders; prorates are possible.

Peppers— Chiles **ALERT!**

Eastern supplies are light, demand is good, and the market is strong for most varieties. Western demand is moderate. Jalapenos are in short supply, and the market is expected to increase. The quality is fair with improvements expected next week.

Peppers—Red, & Yellow **ALERT!**

Red bells are easier to get while **yellow** bells are still limited; demand is strong with lower markets. Western two-tiered markets are occurring as more Choice products are being produced. Green bell peppers are limited while colored pepper availability is better. Markets are all leveling out. **Hothouse Red** and **yellow** pepper suppliers are short with demand exceeding supplies. **Orange** peppers are slightly better, but supplies are tight.

Tomatoes— Round & Roma **ALERT!** & Hothouse Campari & Medley

The tomato market remains on alert status for **rounds** and **Roma** tomatoes due to continued rainfall out of FL combined with an early season wrap up in Mexico. Grape and cherry varieties have improved with increased supply on normal demand. Hothouse **Campari** and **medley** tomatoes are extremely tight, and demand exceeds supplies.

