

Produce Market Report May 22, 2018

### GOOD BUYS FOR THE WEEK



**Strawberries:** The berries arriving from California are outstanding with excellent quality, taste, size, and eye appeal. These and the **stem berries** are just about as beautiful as we will see all year!

**Blackberries:** We continue to see excellent quality, juicy berries coming from Mexico.

**Raspberries:** Great quality, firm, luscious raspberries are in stock from California!

**Mangos:** We have beautiful quality Tommy Atkins variety mangos, readily available!

**Clementines:** Halo's are a great buy, shipping from California.

**Red Seedless Grapes:** The sweetest and firmest, delicious red seedless grapes are in stock from Chile.

**Grapefruit:** Star Ruby grapefruit originating from California now, we are seeing excellent quality.

**Celery:** Very nice quality and good prices continue.

**Bushel Beans:** The snap and great taste of these gorgeous beans remains consistent, even with our growing region transitioning to Georgia.

**Wax beans:** We heard our customer's request, and now have great quality yellow wax beans in stock!

**Baby Spinach, De-stemmed Spinach, Baby Arugula & assorted Baby Lettuces:** Spring plantings of these delicate greens are yielding excellent quality, and the volumes being harvested are encouraging!

#### Local Corner

**Market Note:** Heavy and consistent rain has negatively affected availability of some local produce. We are doing our best to mitigate the impact of the bad weather.

Asparagus	Md.	Ramps	Pa.
Strawberries	Md.	Rhubarb	Pa.
Sweet potatoes	NC		

### The First of the California Mixed Melons Are Here!

The growing conditions in Southern California have seen perfect weather, with warm days and cool nights. Beautiful melons are the pleasant result! We have the first of the Canary, Casaba, and Orange Flesh Honeydew melons of the season. This fruit is loaded with healthy benefits like Vitamin A and C, paired with a fresh sweet taste for your summer menu!



#### GOOD BUYS

Strawberries

Blackberries

Raspberries

Mangos

Clementines

Red Grapes

Grapefruit

Celery

Bushel Beans

#### KEEP IN MIND

Green Grapes

Peaches, Nectarines & Apricots

Cherries

Limes

Artichokes

Asparagus

Iceberg

Romaine & Romaine Hearts

Brussels Sprouts

#### WATCH

Tomatoes

Watermelons

Local Strawberries

Broccoli & Cauliflower

Red, Green & Boston Lettuce

#### KEEP IN MIND

**White (green) grapes:**

Finally, a break in the cycle of extreme prices now that Mexico is in the market with a new variety called "Early Sweet" grapes. They are a nice substitute for what used to be called "Pearlettes."

**Cotton Candy Grapes** are available with notice.

**Peaches, Nectarines &**

**Apricots:** California stone fruit season has started with a bang!

**Cherries:** The first California cherries have hit the market but prices are very high.

**Limes:** Pricing has improved greatly!

**Artichokes:** Great quality on all sizes, minimal availability on baby size.



**Asparagus:** Besides beautiful local asparagus, both Washington state and Peru are shipping, with favorable pricing.

**Iceberg, Romaine & Romaine Hearts:** Very good pricing; all from California.

**Brussels Sprouts:** Steady buy all around!

#### WATCH

**Rain alert:** Multiple days of pounding rain have severely impacted Eastern farm production. Workers are prohibited from getting into fields to pick leading to sporadic outages.

**Tomatoes:** In the midst of the Florida Palmetto/Ruskin production, unrelenting rain hit the fields severely limiting the harvesting process. Prices doubled in one week.

**Watermelon:** Same wet scenario is causing havoc with the watermelon crop. Prices are up but quality is good.

**Blueberries:** Coming from both Mexico and Georgia with good quality but prices are up significantly.

**Local Strawberries:** A week of rain has not been good for local berries. Supplies are now hit or miss.

**Broccoli, Broccoli Crowns & Cauliflower:** Prices have spiked up significantly.

**Red & Green Leaf & Boston lettuce:** Accelerated demand, especially for green leaf lettuce. Prices are still very high.

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