



Produce Supply Update

October 15th, 2018

Good Morning!

Hurricane Michael plowed a path right through the most productive growing regions right now, devastating and ending many harvests for the season. Northern Florida and Georgia are the source for a lot of the most popular vegetables this time of year, such as tomatoes, corn, and squash. The supply shut off like a faucet as farmers got out of the fields ahead of the storm to prepare and protect their buildings and homes. Corn got especially tight, as many stalks were blown over just as harvest was ready to begin. We're still waiting to find out the full impact that Matthew had on those areas, but it won't be good. Tomato markets were kind of in a glut leading into the storm, but jumped up several dollars immediately following the rains and wind. Fortunately, Mexican farmers are starting their season, which will take a lot of pressure off of the east coast growers.



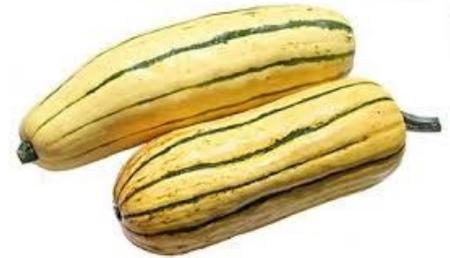
California strawberry growers are expecting favorable weather over the next month, and harvest volumes to hold fairly steady. They are going into fall, though, and days will be shorter, causing the plants to slow their growth somewhat.

Cabbage markets continue to stay at higher levels. I've never seen them stay so elevated for so long. It's like the new normal. Midwest cabbage is ending earlier than expected due to substantial rain and weather related complications. Texas crops are delayed due to rains that delayed plantings. Markets in the west remain high as demand greatly exceed supply. Expect markets to remain tight and elevated until Georgia product is ready the first week of November.

California navel oranges are finished for the season, and Chilean and other importing countries are having a difficult time keeping up with demand. Oranges are extremely tight and will likely stay so until a new crop begins. Florida should be starting their citrus season soon, but with the greening disease affecting so

many of their farms, it will be very limited production.

We're stocking up on Fall decoration items, like Indian Corn, Hard Squashes, pumpkins, and gourds. Get yours now to make your Fall displays.



Check out our list of dry goods for all of your disposable essentials. We offer a very broad lineup of togo trays, cups, cleaning supplies, and even compostable options. Paper straws are becoming very popular and we have them for you and your customers.



Q: What do ghosts eat on Halloween?

A: Ghoulish

Q: What is a vampire's favorite fruit?

A: Nectarine

Thank You for Your Business!

Have a Great Week!

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