



Produce Supply Update

January 7, 2019

Welcome to the New Year - It's going to be great!

The new year is bringing much lower prices from the west coast. As they settle into the Yuma growing region, prices for almost all items are heading down – hard! Expect better pricing on all lettuces, salad mixes and cauliflower.



About the only exceptions are broccoli, celery and green onions. They still remain in short supply as they are not growing as fast as needed to keep up with orders. Because of frost and freezing temps, they have to delay harvesting until about noon each day.

Tomatoes continue to remain pricey as cold weather on top of the wet weather has limited

available supplies. This is not their best time of the year.



Now coming from southern Florida and California, bell pepper supplies are down as heavy rain and strong winds have slowed harvest. Hopefully supplies will bounce back soon.

Fresh apple inventories are down about 16% from last season. Apples in storage for processing are actually down about 45% from last year. As shippers try not to give out too soon, expect apple prices to rise slowly until the new crop comes in next fall.



California grape shippers had a record year with plenty of good quality, domestic grapes still available. Normally by now, most supplies would be coming from Chile. Even though they were delayed, Chilean ships are starting to arrive at port. Expect to see Chilean plums, nectarines and grapes soon.

Expect strawberries to come into more volume in January, as they now come from both Florida and Arizona. More volume leads the way to better pricing.



Just a FYI, Wish Farms is finalizing the development of their robotic strawberry harvester! They are checking to see if it meets all the milestones this season. If it does, you will see it in commercial use in the next few years. It will be interesting to see how this works out!

Thank you for your business and Have a Great Week!

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