



Week of April 6, 2009

## Market News, See What's Sprouted!

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The Produce Market is a little unstable right now. **Beans** have finally come down from the crazy prices we saw for a few weeks. **Asparagus** looks like it will go up next week. As we get closer to Easter the price and availability of Asparagus gets a little tighter. **Broccoli** is also on the way up. **Cauliflower** is already much higher. **Cucumbers** are still high priced but we do see some weakening in the market. **Eggplant** is still crazy for next week. **Peppers** are still very active, Green Peppers are back up again and prices are also higher on Red Peppers, Yellow Peppers are still high also. The **Potato** market is steady on Box Potatoes, all sizes are in good supply. **Tomatoes** are going up on all sizes considerably. **Roma** Tomatoes are also up. **Cherry** Tomatoes & **Grape** Tomatoes are reasonably priced. The **Squash** market has come down on both yellow and Zucchini, look good for all week. The **Lettuce** market is very active - Head Lettuce is higher and **Romaine** is higher along with

Red & Green Leaf- both of which have gone up considerably. **Corn** is still very high priced and quality is suspect because corn is getting such high prices. Growers are picking the corn before it matures to take advantage of a high **market**, so some ears are not fully developed and kernels are small.

The **Strawberry** Market is tightening up next week. The Easter Holiday is a big strawberry day. Growers are putting retail ads to lure customers into grocery stores. Unfortunately, that puts Foodservice at a disadvantage for product, and usually leads to higher prices (we'll see). **Raspberries** are crazy next week, supply has dried up and growers are scrambling to fill orders. **Blackberries** are still in good supply, **Blueberries** are tightening up.



### Top Crops!

Texas  
Heirloom Tomatoes

Ramps

Morel Mushrooms

Baby Artichokes

### In the Spotlight

Texas  
Heirloom Tomatoes

Our small independent grower produces over 60 different varieties of heirloom tomatoes. You will receive a mixed case of whatever varieties are available at the time of harvesting. No two cases will be the same. This way each case will be a whole new taste experience! An heirloom is generally considered to be a variety that has been passed down, through several generations of a family because of its valued characteristics. All in all these are your Grandmother's tomatoes, they come straight from the garden to you.



GO TEXAN.



## Florida legislators seek help to battle beetle

By Doug Ohlemeier - The Packer

(April 6, 5:40 p.m.) A Florida congressman is requesting federal help to fight a tiny beetle that can kill avocado trees.

The exotic redbay ambrosia beetle spreads a fungus that causes laurel wilt disease. The disease has killed redbay trees — closely related to avocado trees — throughout the southeastern U.S. Scientists fear the disease could wipe out half the state's avocado crop.

Rep. Adam Putnam, R-Fla., sent a letter on March 27 to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, seeking immediate help to stem the pest's spread south.

Putnam requested the U.S. Department of Agriculture to restrict interstate shipments of redbay wood and plants that host the beetle.

The letter, co-signed by a dozen other Florida Republican and Democratic representatives and senators, also urges the secretary to use tools provided in the 2008 farm bill for disease detection and eradication.

Without swift USDA action, the disease could destroy Florida's avocado industry, Putnam and other lawmakers wrote in the letter.

While preliminary research has started to halt the spread of the disease, the lawmakers said the USDA needs to take more steps to protect the industry.

"The disease has spread quickly in our state and has been found recently only 70 miles from the heart of Florida's avocado production region," the lawmakers wrote.

