



Week of June 1, 2009

Market News, See What's Cropped Up!

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Beans are still crazy priced and this week is no exception - prices are high and may go higher by the end of the week. Rain is the main reason for the price hike. French Beans are very reasonable. **Broccoli** is steady, **Cauliflower** is higher. **Carrots** are the steady on jumbo and table sizes. Baby Peeled with the tops are still priced reasonably. **Cucumbers** are higher on all sizes and cases. Green **Onions** are higher, Yellow Onions are going higher and so are Red Onions - both are finishing up out of storage and new crop is about 1-2 weeks away before they get started, and the prices are creeping up. Speaking of Up, the **Tomato** market took a leap up this week. Growers are concerned with the mess the weather caused in the last month, and they need to get moving to fix the problem of light supply. **Zucchini** and **Yellow Squash** are also higher next week.

Joining them in that up pricing mode is **Peppers** - Green Peppers, to be exact. The Market is higher because of bad weather in the growing areas. **Lettuce** is still higher on Head Lettuce and Romaine. Leaf Lettuce and Boston are holding steady. **Figs** are back - mostly flats of Brown Turkey if you like figs, they are excellent. **Strawberries** are steady, **Raspberries** are at their lowest level, **Blackberries** are very good, and **Blueberries** are the best. We've just received a shipment of **Texas Blueberries** and they are excellent! Golden Raspberries are available in a limited amount. On the stone-fruit side of things we have several options. **Apricots** are available, **Nectarines** are available. **Plums** are available. **Peaches** - **White, Yellow, and Saturn** are all available. **Yellow Watermelons** are still around. **Cantaloupe** is going up; early reports show the

crop in California is not looking good. Small size melons are going to be tight and the overall look of the Cantaloupe market is not pretty, so hold on to your horses - we are in for a little bit of a wild ride. **Honeydew** is looking better- not as much trouble here, but you never know. A variety of melons are available. **Galia,**

Canary, Sharlyn, Tuscan, Crenshaw, and

Orange Flesh are all available; please make sure to order early. **Passion Fruit, Baby Apples, Golden Kiwi, Kiwano Melon, Lychee, Pepino Melons, Rambutans, Starfruit, Red Tamarillo, Feijoa,** and **Cape Gooseberries** are all available now.



Spring Sensations!

Peaches

Blueberries

Tuscan Melons

Figs

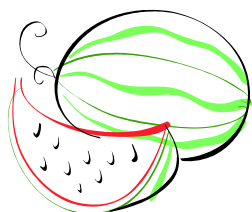
In the Spotlight

Feijoa

Egg-shaped and egg-size, the lime-green to olive thin skin of the feijoa has a slightly bumpy surface. Its dense and grainy soft flesh surrounds a jelly-like center full of tiny edible seeds. Having a pear-like texture, its unusual flavor is sweet-tart with a lemon and menthol overtone. Some say it combines the flavors of quince, pineapple and Concord grapes with a hint of spruce.



Do you know your ripe from wrong?



So, how do you tell if a watermelon is ripe without cutting it open? A watermelon that is ripe will be faded on the top. If the watermelon has stripes, look at the area between the stripes. This area should be a light green. Turn the watermelon over and look at the place where the fruit stood on the ground. If the watermelon is ripe, the 'belly spot' will be white or yellow. If you can see the stripes through the belly spot, it may not be ripe.



Dole, Chiquita assess damage to banana business after Honduran earthquake

An earthquake early in the morning May 28 off the coast of Honduras caused officials to close Puerto Cortes, the port handling about four-fifths of all exports, including bananas and coffee, according to industry sources.

Puerto Cortes is the sea port for the industrial area around the city of San Pedro Sula and handles the bulk of the Central American nation's export trade.

Bryan Brown, director of corporate communications for Chiquita Brands International, Cincinnati, said no company employees got injured from the quake.

"Most important, we've been in close contact with our employees in Honduras," Brown said, of the 7.1 magnitude quake. "Everyone seems to be OK, and we're thankful for that.

"Our managers are assessing the situation to assess the damage to some of our facilities. Damage to our

infrastructure appears to be minor overall, but we don't have a complete report."

Brown said it was still too early to judge what the disruptions will be to the company's banana exports in the short term.

"We continue to monitor information as it's coming through," he said. "Then, we'll make a full determination of the damage and proceed from there."

Dole Fresh Fruit Co., Westlake Village, Calif., and Chiquita account for the bulk of U.S. banana business out of Honduras.

Bill Goldfield, communications manager for Dole, said his company is also assessing quake damage.

The U.S. imported 506 thousand metric tons of bananas and plantains from Honduras in 2008, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service.

Farmer's Market Fresh

PINATA APPLES

BANANA BUD FLOWER

SEA BEANS

CAPE GOOSEBERRIES

RAINIER CHERRIES

CHINESE CELERY

THAI PEELED COCONUT

BLACK MISSION FIGS

BROWN TURKEY FIGS

BLACK GARLIC

ELEPHANT GARLIC

GOLD KIWI

PINK LEMONS

LYCHEES

WHITE NECTARINES

SATURN PEACHES

WHITE PEACHES

SHISITO PEPPERS

POMEGRANATE SEEDS

YELLOW WATERMELON

WHEATGRASS

Some of these items are limited so first come, first served. ☺