



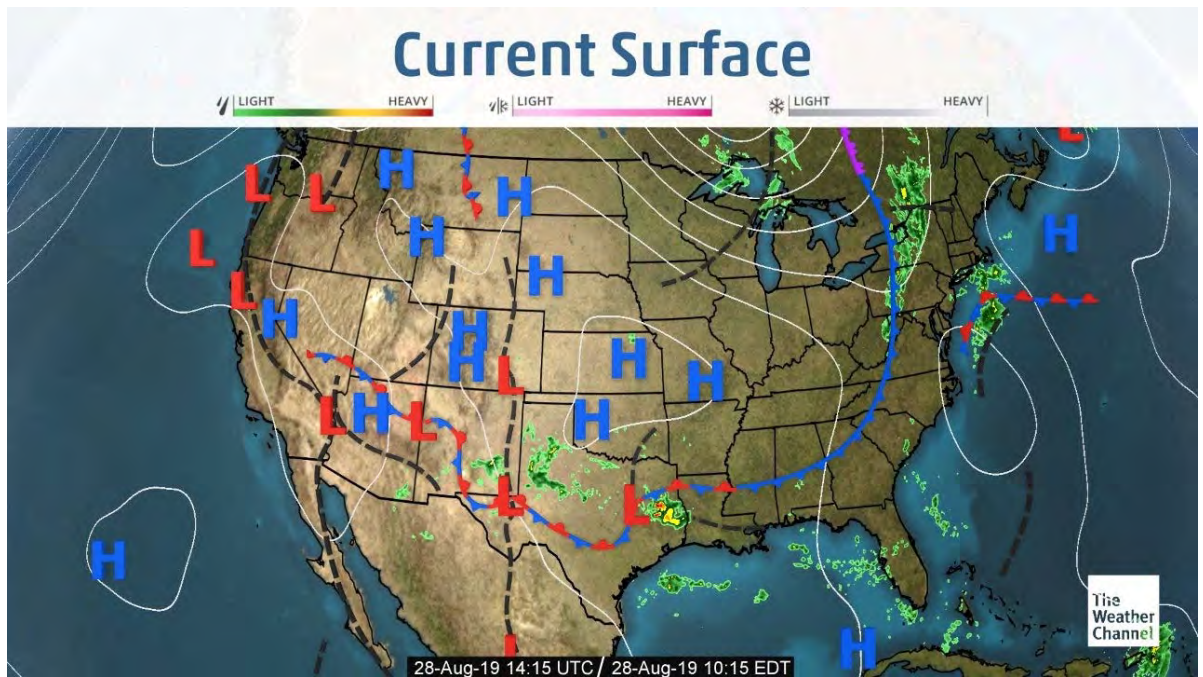
All Things Produce—News, product features, recipes and more.

August 30, 2019

Weather:



High pressure continues out west with seasonably warm temperatures across the inland valleys and continued marine layer influence along the coastal fields into next week. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms look to continue across Central Mexico with seasonably warm temperatures and a low-end chance for showers to the north. Florida will see showers in front of tropical storm Dorian's arrival over the weekend. Dorian will likely reach hurricane status as it approaches Northern Florida and is expected to make landfall late Saturday into Sunday with heavy rains and strong winds. This storm bears watching as it strengthens and approaches Florida.



Bell Peppers:

Eastern Green Bell pepper is in peak season with most supplies coming from Michigan, Ohio, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. There are still light supplies in the mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina. Quality in most of the regions is good, the eastern growing regions have had more issues because of heat, the mid-west has better overall quality with the only real issues coming after rainstorms. Pricing has been steady for the past week at reasonable levels with very slow demand. With cooler weather in the mid-west this week, expect production to slow and quality will get better.

Western: Green Bell Pepper- Better supplies of green bell pepper being harvested in Bakersfield, CA and in the Fresno, CA growing area. Mostly choice grade continues to be packed. Very light supplies of large and extra-large retail grade bell pepper being packed. Quality on green bell pepper from these areas is good. Choice grade Green bell pepper supply meets demand. Retail grade green bell pepper supply meets demand. Green bell pepper harvest has also started in the Hollister and Oxnard and will continue to be available from McAllen, TX.

Red Bell Pepper- Better supplies of red bell pepper being harvested in the Bakersfield and in the Fresno growing area. Mostly choice grade currently being packed from these districts. Quality from Fresno and Bakersfield is mostly fair. Market on red bell pepper is steady. Red bell pepper also being harvested in Hollister and Oxnard. Light supplies of Red bell pepper also available to load in McAllen, TX. load in McAllen, TX.



Citrus Lemons:

We'll have another good week on lemon supplies, with the majority being imported fruit out of both coasts. Market prices on small size fruit continue to soften up, looking at mid \$20's to low \$30's on choice and fancy fruit. Offshore supply continues and has been helping offset domestic supplies. We're hearing great feedback on the export quality. Please let us know if you have interest.

Lettuce Iceberg

This market is steady to start the week. With the emergence of school business, supplies have firmed up with multiple suppliers. Salinas and Santa Maria are the main growing regions for this commodity. Mexico has production as well but bad weather has caused production to be up and down from this growing region. The weather in all of California continues to be very favorable for growing conditions. Yields continue to be above average with multiple growers. Small, minimal defects include growth crack, insects and misshapen heads. The overall quality is good. Weights on this commodity are reported at 41-45 pounds.

Lettuce Leaf:

This market has firmed up on romaine. There is a supply gap in the industry. School business has picked up on value-added as well as carton business. Overall supplies will be moderate at best throughout this week. The quality continues to be above average. Minor defects include mechanical, light windburn and slight insect damage. Weights are reported between thirty-five to forty-three pounds per case. Romaine hearts will continue to be on the light side for the entire week. Green and red leaf, as well as butter, will have good availability all week. Good quality of green and red leaf, as well as butter, continues to be reported. Aside from occasional insect damage, mildew and fringe burn, these defects are minimal. The weights on green and red leaf range from twenty-one to twenty-five pounds per case.

Onions:

Northwest onions in Idaho/Oregon, as well as Washington, have started up on all three colors. Quality is excellent and the supply is good. Size profile on yellow is leaning heavily to jumbo and medium size. Super colossal and colossal yellow in Idaho/Oregon are limited with higher markets. Washington is not quoting super colossal yellow and limited on colossal yellow. Red onions are plentiful while whites are limited but meeting current demand. The California season is quickly coming to a close with a few jumbo and medium yellows left and a good supply of jumbo reds that shippers are looking to clean up this week. New Mexico is also looking to finish up with all three colors and sporadic sizing. Very limited supplies of super colossal and colossal yellow.

Potatoes:

Idaho Burbanks have finished for the storage season and we are now 100% Norkotahs with the new crop harvest season in full swing. Quality is excellent with size profile currently leaning to 80 count and smaller. Larger size 40 count through 70 count are limited to start. As harvests continue, 60 count and 70 count are steadily increasing in volume. #2 grade 10-ounce and 6-ounce are limited as Norkotah quality is producing high volume #1 grade potatoes. Suppliers will be subbing into carton counts for #2's to fulfill orders. Typically a 50 count to 70 count will be used for 10oz #2's and 90 count to 100 count will be used for 6oz #2's. Some minor quality issues in the new crop Norkotahs may be seen in the way of skinning, white mold, wet potatoes (wet boxes), and soft potatoes. Washington continues to produce steady volume. Colorado supplies are limited with Wisconsin starting up this week. Please continue to send advanced orders (at minimum 72 hours) prior to ship date over the next 2-3 weeks as we move through the transition.



Tomatoes:

Eastern: Weather conditions continue to disrupt supply. Tropical Storm Dorian is forecasted to have a 90% chance of forming a cyclone before making landfall on Puerto Rico today. Depending on the strength and path of the storm, there is a chance Dorian will make landfall somewhere over Florida also bringing rain to Georgia and the Carolinas. Although harvests are scattered over several growing regions, summer programs remain light and demand is strong lifting the market. Round tomatoes are being harvested early from heat in the regions bringing forth a flush of fruit. Quality is mixed overall and mostly fair. Mature greens out of North Carolina are in a small gap from a heat-induced bloom drop 6 weeks ago. Virginia has finished harvesting for the short term coming back into volume the first week of September with new plantings. Alabama and Tennessee will remain in production until the first frost of the season. Like rounds, Roma tomato volumes are light but better supply from the west is helping to ease the market causing fobs to come off a few dollars from last week. Grape and Cherry tomatoes are steady. Virginia has light supply and North Carolina is also harvesting, but like rounds and romas, there is not enough supply from any one area to meet demand forcing buyers to look west. Quality is fair and with more rain in the forecast picking schedules may be reduced this week.

Western: Another Heatwave is hitting the San Joaquin Valley this week with temperatures exceeding 105 degrees in some growing areas. The heat will bring on a flush of fruit and more than likely cause a bloom drop that will potentially affect production 6 weeks from now in mid-October. Quality challenges continue from excessive heat and tired plants. There is not much change in the market as a result of the growing conditions this week. Mature greens are steady, and quality remains fair to poor. Roma tomatoes are similar in CA and most imports from Mexico are only slightly better as Baja farms continue to work their way into new plantings. The newly agreed suspension agreement draft has eased concerns of a shortage of tomatoes coming from Mexico helping to steady supply as growers in Mexico continue to work through the transition and recent rains. Grape and cherry tomatoes have improved slightly from the past couple of weeks but are mostly steady now while supply is still limited. It will still be a couple of weeks before harvests are expected to improve, and the hope is for better markets when Mexico begins harvesting in greater volume mid to late September.

No. 2 Idaho Potatoes



No. 2 potatoes bake and taste the same but may have pointed ends, more bruising, etc. Restaurant operators use No. 2 potatoes when the final appearance does not have to be as attractive a potato shape, for example for mashed, hash browns or French fries

50 lb. Sofo #260970

Spring Mix



Carefully selected tender baby lettuces and greens, picked when the tiny leaves are perfect and whole. Our salads look garden-fresh. Our Spring Mix is not only flavorful, but beautiful too!

3 lb. Sofo #260380

Medium Green Peppers



Did you know when trimmed properly, one medium green pepper can yield about one cup of diced peppers?

1 1/9 bushel Sofo #260510