

# Notes from the Greengrocer

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**Stone Fruit:** Chilean Pluots available this week include Dapple Dandy and Lemon; Peaches and Nectarines are still good. New Zealand Apricot quality is very nice. Bing and Rainier Cherries quality is very poor; time to pull the plug....



**Specialty:** Baby Veggies: Prices on Baby Squashes are still low; French Bean prices are coming off; Yellow Wax remains on the high side. Peeled Baby Carrots with top inventories are getting better; prices are coming back down...

**Tomato Report:** FOB prices in Nogales are all on the rise; the LA market is reacting slowly but prices on all tomatoes are going up; cold weather in Mexico is to blame; expect higher pricing on specialty and cluster tomatoes as well....

**Lettuce Report:** No change in Iceberg and leaf; prices remain low. Spinach quality is good; prices are low; Mescaline, Baby Spinach and Baby Arrugula all have good availability; prices have to normal....

**Berry News:** Strawberries; Rain has affected both quality price; we expect this to continue for at least a week until the fields dry out. Raspberries remain high priced for good ones; there are cheaper Chilean raspberries available but the quality is poor at best. Chilean Blackberries are a good value; quality is good and prices are low. Chilean Blueberries is another good alternative; quality is good and prices are low...

**Fruit Report:** Apples and Pears: Supply and quality remain good. Avocados: Availability of California fruit is good; prices are up slightly. Bananas: South American growers are all short on fruit; prices are up again. Citrus: Texas Grapefruit and Valencia oranges are unchanged; Lemon prices are unchanged; Limes prices remain high; California Navel orange prices remain low. Blood Oranges are in good supply; prices are low. Grapes: Black, Green, and Red Grape quality is very good; prices are down again. Cantaloupes and Honeydews are better this week; quality is improving and prices are unchanged. Costa Rican and Maui pineapples are short this week; prices are up....

**Vegetable Report:** Artichokes: Quality is improving and prices are off slightly; we even have some loose chokes available. Asparagus: Not much change; grass is very good; prices are low. Blue Lake Beans: Quality remains good; prices are down. Broccoli and Cauliflower: No changes; supply is good and prices are low. Brussels Sprout: Growers are in gap; supplies are tight and prices are up. Celery: Availability is good; prices are low. Cabbage: Prices are unchanged. Carrots: Prices are unchanged. Cucumbers: Supplies are good and prices are higher; Hothouse cucumbers are short too. Eggplant: Cold weather is having a disastrous affect on Globes; prices are up significantly; Japanese Eggplant is still short; prices are strong. Onions: Brown, red, and white onions prices are low. Peppers: Green and Gold Bell prices are unchanged but Red Bell Peppers are on fire; prices are up at least \$10 since the early part of last week. Straightneck, Green and Gold Zucchini: We are reporting no changes at this time but the by the weekend we will definitely be seeing stronger prices...