

Notes from the Greengrocer

March 6, 2007

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Stone Fruit: Good supplies of apricots, peaches, Saturn peaches, nectarines, and plums including red, black, dapple dandy, and lemon pluots. White nectarines and white peaches are plentiful and good....



Specialty News: Most Baby squashes remain in short supply; Yellow summer is in better shape; prices are off. Good deals are available on French Beans but Yellow Wax Beans remain short and expensive.

Tomato Report: Roma's: The market remains weak. Two Layer and Loose Tomatoes: Volume out of Nogales is heavy; prices are low. Cherry Tomatoes: Quality is very good, prices are off. Heirloom Tomatoes: Baja fruit is available; quality is good and prices are high. Specialty Tomatoes: Teardrops are in good supply; prices are lower. Grape Tomato volume is picking up; prices are coming off. Clusters: Growers are long on product; prices are cheap; orange and red clusters are also available....

Lettuce Report: Demand is slow on leaf; prices are down; iceberg and romaine supplies are a little snug; growers are pushing up their fobs. Spinach is in good supply; prices are down...

Berry News: Strawberries: Supply is starting to overshadow demand; prices are coming off and quality is improving; Long Stem strawberries are in better supply. Blackberry and Blueberries are surplus, prices are weak; Raspberries: Quality is very weak; prices are up on some of the better labels.

Fruit Report: Avocados: Prices are perking up as Chilean supplies dwindle; local growers are up in price but not too much because of the influx of Mexican fruit. Citrus: Oranges and lemons are steady; Limes are in better shape; prices are coming down. Grapes: Good quality and supplies of Chilean flames and Thompson's; prices are down. Kiwi's: Supplies are light; prices are up. Melons: Cantaloupes and Honeydews are improving in quality daily; prices are off; Watermelon quality is poor at best; prices up again. Mangoes are short; prices are up. Papayas and Pineapples: Supplies are good and prices are steady....

Vegetable Report: Artichokes: Supplies are improving on 18 – 36 count; limited supplies of small and large loose are available at premium prices. Asparagus: Quality is excellent and prices are unchanged. Beans: Supplies of blue lakes are very light; prices are strong. Broccoli & Cauliflower: Quality is good and prices have leveled off. Celery: High prices have cut into demand; supply has caught up and prices have dropped dramatically. Cabbage: No change, quality is excellent. Carrots: Cool weather continues to cut into production; prices are high. Cucumbers: Short supplies, prices are up again. Eggplant: Supplies of globe, Japanese, and Chinese are short; prices are firm. Onions: There is a worldwide shortage of onions; prices are rising rapidly and will continue to do so. Peppers: Green bell peppers remain plentiful and cheap while red and gold bell peppers continue to be higher priced. Squash: Zucchini is up; Yellow squashes are cheaper this week...