

# TESTA PRODUCE Market Report

Outlook for the Week of  
**December 3,  
2012**



## Market Report

Even though this weather suggests otherwise, December is in full swing. As you are preparing your holiday menus, don't forget to check our Holiday Seasonal List that is attached to this market report. It has all of your seasonal purchasing needs to keep your menus exciting and up to date. If you have a Facebook or Twitter account, be sure to follow us on those social media outlets as well. We post weekly specials, sporadic 'deal of the day' items, as well as lots of other fun and exciting bits of news and happenings around Testa. And now for the markets.

Apples are steady and quality is excellent. There are Empires, Golden Delicious, Red Delicious, and McIntosh Apples coming out of New York as well as limited amounts of Courtlands and Red Romes. Everything coming out of New York is large, with the exception of McIntosh. Washington has Pink Ladys, Cameos, Jonagolds, Braeburns, Romes, Jazz, and Fujis. California is done for the season. Pears are steady and quality is good. D'Anjous, Bartletts, Bosc, and Red Pears out of Washington are available.

Asparagus is steady and quality is good. Avocados are steady and quality is excellent. California product is done for the season but good volume is coming out of Mexico. Green Bell Peppers are settling. Warm weather has helped increase production. Colored Reds are steady with light supplies. Gold Bells are steady as well, with demand exceeding supplies. Overall, quality has been good on Bells.

Strawberries are higher and quality is just fair. Large

amounts of rain hit California and that will have a major affect on supplies and quality. This season is the lowest production point of the year and this rain is making things worse. As a result, we have an industry wide problem with quality and supplies of Strawberries, for at least the next several weeks. Sizing is small, quality is marginal, and Stem Strawberries are very limited. Raspberries are steady for now, but as demand increases, things will firm up a bit. Quality has been fair. Blackberry supplies range depending on the shipper. However despite the inconsistent volume, quality has been good all across the board. Blueberry markets are stronger, with supplies tightened up and limited availability. Quality is good.

Broccoli is steady and overall, pricing is competitive. This is a great time for Broccoli as there is very favorable quality being reported. Carrots are higher, quality is good, and supplies are lightening. Cauliflower is steady but supplies may loosen up this week. Some quality issues have come up surrounding brown spotting on arrivals so be aware of that. Celery is firm and quality is reported as good. Lightest availability is on smaller sizes.

Ventura Lemons are done. Desert crop has good volume. Sizing is heavy on smaller fruit and quality is good and availability is improving for larger sizes. Navel Oranges are good; they have been testing well and color is improving as cooler nighttime temps roll through growing areas. Quality is in good shape right now. Lime supplies are fair with some quality issues showing up.

Cucs are steady and production has increased. Eggplant is steady and quality is good. The market is settling and increasing supplies, and quality has been excellent- the weather has been helping with that. Eggplant out of

## Market Report, Cont'd...

Florida will increase this week and the market should be to decline steadily.

The market on Grapes is higher as Domestic Green and Red Grapes are finishing up quickly. Color is still a problem. Greens are limited. Brazilian Greens have started on the east coast with good quality, but are pricey. Black Seedless are in good supplies and Red Globes are limited.

Green Onions are steady and supplies are stronger out of Mexico. We see a split market with Pencil sizing readily available, but larger sizing tighter. Idaho and Oregon Yellow Onions are up. Both regions are producing larger size Yellows but are limited on mediums, however jumbos are available out of Washington. Most areas have lower inventories on Red Onions but Whites are steady and strong. Quality of all Onions has been good in both areas.

Leaf Lettuce is steady and production has just about finished in Salinas. Romaine Hearts quality out of the desert has very little bleaching, the Hearts aren't cupping as well and the product is very green. Sizing and weights are good on Carton Romaine, Green, and Red Leaf Lettuce. Iceberg Lettuce is steady and weights are running in the mid to high 40's. Quality issues are minimal.

Cantaloupe is steady and quality is good. Desert product is pretty much done but Offshore Fruit is coming with better volume. Limited availability on the west coast from a port strike has delayed vessel offloading. Honeydew is good availability of Mexican product, desert domestic fruit has finished up, and Offshore has started on the east coast. Watermelon is steady and quality is good. The market is showing signs of an upward trend in FOBs. Demand still exceeds on Seedless Watermelon, most availability will be in cartons, and availability on Seeded Watermelon is sporadic.

The Squash market continues to be unsettled on Italian and Yellow Straightneck. Supplies are improving as new acreage begins however some areas are experiencing unexpected gaps. South Florida Squash has good volume and quality is good as well.

Domestic Stone Fruit has finished for the season. Both Hichiya and Fuyu Persimmons and Pomegranates are available with good availability and quality. Some off-

shore Apricots and Cherries are being flown in but they are very pricey.

Potatoes are lower and quality is excellent. Idaho cartons are steady on most count size and demand has been light. The Washington market is steady on all sizes but is heavier on larger counts. Colorado is also steady. Russets have been excellent in all areas, Whites and Golds are nearing the end of their season. Idaho Reds and Golds are both peaking on A-size and the availability is good. B-size is limited in Idaho for both varieties and the colored potato quality has been near excellent in all areas.

Tomatoes are steady and demand is good. Transitions from California to Florida taking place and Mexico is still a few weeks away from full production. Light volumes coming across Nogales in the first weeks of December are anticipated. Florida Tomatoes will be coming from Central or Southern regions. Crops are said to be excellent. Grape Tomatoes are good quality with great supplies, and Cherry Tomatoes are less abundant with varied quality.

## Produce Quiz

Finally the culinary world is recognizing me again. My name comes from the Latin 'to wash' and for a long time I was washed up in kitchens. I've had a most glorious history. In the Middle Ages I was considered the herb of love, to the perfume industry I've always been a major component. From smelling salts to soothing the mind and soul, I have several medicinal uses. My English variety is most popular for perfumed products and my smaller flowers produce more valuable esters than the older plant's darker oils. Often found in vinegars, jellies and sometimes as a salad condiment, my small purple flowers and long stems stand out as an excellent garnish. I am a member of the mint family and today my culinary uses are being realized in both sweet and savory dishes. Combining perfectly with lamb, salmon, black pepper, honey, chocolate, cumin, oranges, and many smoked foods, the creative chef will find endless uses for me. I am available fresh or dried and I bloom and flower in June and July. When you have finished using me in the kitchen, and if you are lucky enough to have some of me leftover, here are some other possible uses for me: soaps, pillow stuffing, potpourris, shaving cream, or just add it to your bath water. And let us not forget that Donovan sang about understanding me, so if you have any more questions ask him, he made me a big part of the whole 60's love thing.

## Last Quiz Answer: French Beans



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