PRO*ACT
CONNECTING FARMS | EMPOWERING KITCHENS™

CITY PRODUCE

# The Source

*Commodity of the Month - Apples*

## MARKET ALERTS

**Asparagus:** Mexican and Peruvian asparagus supplies remain very tight, with quality and freight challenges. Improved availability is expected mid-to-late October.

**Blackberry:** Blackberry supplies are tight as California and Oregon finish, with Mexico expected to improve availability in 2 weeks.

**Cauliflower:** Remain very tight due to production gaps, pest pressure, and warm weather. The market is expected to stay firm.

**Citrus (Oranges):** California Valencia oranges are heavy to larger sizes, with 113/138ct very limited. Flexibility and substitutions to 88/72ct will be needed.

**Green Onion:** Baja supplies remain very tight due to heat and low yields, keeping markets firm. Supplies should improve by mid-to-late October.

**Lettuce (Iceberg):** Lower yields and INSV are keeping supplies tight, with quality issues and active demand pushing the market higher.

**Lettuce Leaf:** Leafy green supplies are improving as disease pressure eases. Romaine hearts remain steady, with prices in the mid-to-high teens.

**Onions:** Summer onions are finished; storage onions remain tight, with larger sizes and freight costs keeping the market firm.

**Pineapple:** Pineapple supplies are tightening, with crownless 8/10ct and organic remaining very limited. Crowned 6/7ct supplies are improving, with minor holiday port delays possible.

**Potatoes:** Burbank potatoes are finished; new crop has tight 40/70ct sizing. Washington quality is good, while sweet potato supplies remain limited.

**Strawberries:** Strawberry supplies remain extremely tight, with limited open-market fruit. Salinas and Watsonville are winding down, while Santa Maria improves into September.

## SEPTEMBER 2, 2026

### CROP UPDATES

Idaho's 2026 potato crop is trending smaller than expected due to weather challenges, with early harvests peaking around 90ct and large 40/50ct potatoes especially limited. Yields are also down in some areas, keeping pressure on supplies. The full crop outlook should become clearer in late September as the main storage harvest begins, but larger sizes could remain a challenge through the fall. Read more

### WEATHER

**California:** Cooler, below-average temperatures and morning drizzle are expected, with warmer conditions returning this weekend as high pressure builds.

**Mexico:** Scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected over the next five days, with cooler temperatures and highs in the 70s to near 80.

**Florida:** Showers and thunderstorms continue through the week, with heavier rain possible. Afternoon gusts may reach 15 mph. Tropical redevelopment is unlikely.

**Arizona:** Dry and cooler through Thursday, with showers and thunderstorms returning Thursday–Friday. Light rain is possible Saturday.

### FREIGHT

Freight this week sees hints of fall markets showing up. Shipper delays and product availability is slowly starting to become a part of loading out west. As the days get shorter, we anticipate subtle changes in loading times, and that will affect transit. We are actively preparing for transition to the southern growing regions.

PRO FRESH LOGISTICS

### IN PEAK SEASON

- Carrots
- Grapes
- Stone Fruit

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# Commodity Updates

## Apples

School demand and limited availability continue to put upward pressure on the apple market. Prices for Fuji, Pink Lady, Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, and Granny Smith have increased, with Fuji supplies expected to remain extremely limited over the next two weeks. Gala and Honeycrisp are the exceptions, as new-crop harvest is underway and the Gala market remains relatively steady.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yakima, Washington (August - July) | Light | $$$ | Good |

## Asparagus

ALERT

Mexican asparagus supplies remain extremely limited, with Northern Baja providing the most consistent volume despite quality challenges. September is expected to be one of the toughest months for availability, with improved supplies not expected until mid-to-late October. Peruvian supplies also remain limited, with rising costs and El Niño uncertainty prompting major grower Olmos to exit production. Southern Peru continues to offer better quality, but strong European demand and high air freight costs are limiting U.S. availability.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| Caborca (Year Round) | Light | $$$ | Fair |
| Peru (Year Round) | Light | $$$ | Good |
| Ohio/NC/MI/NJ (June - September) | Light | $$$ | Good |
| Mexico (Ciudad Obregon) (Year Round) | Light | $$$ | Good |

## Avocados

Markets remain steady on 48/60/70ct, while larger fruit continues to command a premium. California and Peru are also shipping, though both are winding down.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mexico (Year Round) | Steady | $$$ | Good |
| California (April - July) | Light | $$$ | Good |

## Bell Peppers

California supplies remain plentiful with good quality and steady volume, while Midwest and Northeast production remains strong with favorable domestic FOBs. Supplies are expected to stay ample through early September, making peppers a strong promotional item.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| California (May - October) | Steady | $$$ | Good |
| Ohio/NC/MI/NJ (June - September) | Steady | $$$ | Good |

*Price Key:* $$$ *-Low,* $$$ *-Steady,* $$$ *-High*

*Supply Partners*

# Commodity Updates

## Berries (Blackberries)

ALERT

Blackberry supplies have tightened significantly as Cemex transitions to new growing areas and the California crop nears its end. Oregon is also finishing this week, with supplies expected to remain limited over the next two weeks until Mexican production increases.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| California (Year Round) | Light | $$$ | Good |

## Berries (Blueberries)

The Pacific Northwest season has ended, with Peruvian and Mexican imports beginning to dominate supplies at slightly higher prices. This week marks the end of domestic fruit availability.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| California (Year Round) | Steady | $$$ | Excellent |

## Berries (Raspberries)

Supplies are limited this week due to the Cemex transition and declining California availability. Mexican volume is expected to increase over the next two weeks, helping improve availability.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| California (Year Round) | Light | $$$ | Good |

## Berries (Strawberries)

ALERT

Strawberry supplies remain tight, with demand exceeding availability and very limited open-market fruit. Salinas and Watsonville are winding down earlier than expected, while Santa Maria's new crop is beginning and should improve volume into September. Additional supplies from CEMEX, Oxnard, and Baja are still a few weeks away.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| California (Year Round) | Light | $$$ | Fair |

*Price Key:* $$$ *-Low,* $$$ *-Steady,* $$$ *-High*

*Supply Partners* Driscoll's Only the Finest Berries™ naturipe FARMS

# Commodity Updates

## Broccoli

Broccoli supplies remain tight as fields transition to younger plantings. The market is expected to strengthen heading into next week.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mexico (Year Round) | Light | $$$ | Fair |
| Santa Maria, California (Year Round) | Steady | $$$ | Fair |
| Salinas, California (May- October) | Light | $$$ | Fair |

## Brussel Sprouts

Brussels sprout supplies remain on the tighter side. With demand beginning to pick up, expect the market to strengthen slightly.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mexico (December-August) | Light | $$$ | Good |
| Oxnard / Salinas, CA (May - July) (July-Dec) | Light | $$$ | Good |

## Carrots

The spring carrot crop in Bakersfield is sizing well with good yields, and we expect to remain in the area for the next 2–3 weeks before transitioning to the Lancaster/Cuyama regions for the summer crop, which will run through the end of October. We will then return to Bakersfield. Grimmway has also begun production in Minnesota, with the program expected to run through late November or early December. Pricing will remain consistent with California.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| Imperial Valley (February - May) | High | $$$ | Excellent |
| Kern County (October - Feb) | Steady | $$$ | Good |
| Various Northwest Regions (July - October) | Steady | $$$ | Good |

## Cauliflower

ALERT

Cauliflower supplies are expected to remain very tight through the remainder of the season. While some fields have recently come forward, production gaps and Diamondback Moth pressure continue to significantly impact yields, particularly in South County and Santa Maria. Warm weather is adding to the challenges, with no meaningful improvement expected in the near term. The market is likely to remain difficult for the foreseeable future.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mexico (Year Round) | Steady | $$$ | Good |
| Santa Maria, California (Year Round) | Light | $$$ | Good |
| Salinas, California (May - October) | Steady | $$$ | Good |

## Celery

The market is steady to start the week and is expected to remain that way throughout. Santa Maria/Oxnard and Salinas will provide all sizes, with above-average quality from most shippers. School demand has been relatively slow, and shippers are flexing, making this a good commodity to promote.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| Oxnard, California (Year Round) | Steady | $$$ | Good |

*Price Key:* $$$ *-Low,* $$$ *-Steady,* $$$ *-High*

*Supply Partners*

# Commodity Updates

## Citrus (Grapefruit)

Star Ruby supplies are available, peaking at 48ct, with shipments coming out of Riverside and the San Joaquin Valley.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| California (Year Round) | Steady | $$$ | Good |
| Texas (October - April) | Light | $$$ | Good |

## Citrus (Lemons)

The lemon market remains steady, with tight supplies keeping prices firm in the near term. Offshore product is available on both coasts, while District Two (Ventura County/Oxnard) is in full production and providing the majority of the fruit.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| Oxnard/Ventura (February - September) | Steady | $$$ | Fair |
| San Joaquin Valley (October - May) | Light | $$$ | Good |

## Citrus (Limes)

Good-quality fruit remains extremely limited, with heavy grading and below-average quality pushing prices higher. New crop should improve quality within 1–2 weeks, but limited volume is expected to keep prices elevated.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| Veracruz (Year Round) | Steady | $$$ | Good |

## Citrus (Oranges)

ALERT

California Valencia oranges are heavily weighted toward larger sizes, with production peaking on 56ct and 72ct. Small sizes, particularly 113ct and 138ct, remain extremely limited and are expected to stay tight through the end of the season. Flexibility on size and grade will be important for consistent order coverage, with substitutions to 88ct or 72ct likely needed as small fruit supplies tighten.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| San Joaquin Valley (Year Round) | Light | $$$ | Fair |

## Cucumber

Baja supplies remain light due to weather, putting upward pressure on the market. Eastern and local production is available with generally good quality, while markets are expected to remain firm into September until mainland Mexico increases production.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mexico (November - May) | Steady | $$$ | Good |
| Baja California (May - October) | Steady | $$$ | Good |
| Ohio/NC/MI/NJ (June - September) | Steady | $$$ | Good |

*Price Key: $$$ -Low, $$$ -Steady, $$$ -High*

*Supply Partners* Sunkist FRESH LINK

# Commodity Updates

## Eggplant

Heavy production and good quality continue in North Carolina and New Jersey, while California production is improving with steady pricing. Markets are expected to remain soft, making eggplant a strong promotional item through August.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| California (May - October) | Steady | $$$ | Good |
| Ohio/NC/MI (June - September) | Steady | $$$ | Good |

## Garlic

We are now into the new 2026 California crop, which is expected to run through September 2026.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| East Coast (Year Round) | Steady | $$$ | Good |
| Bakersfield, California (Year Round) | Steady | $$$ | Good |
| Gilroy, California (Year Round) | Steady | $$$ | Good |

## Grapes

The California grape market remains stable, with most shippers peaking on Large and Extra Large sizes across red and green seedless varieties. Barring significant weather disruptions, pricing and availability are expected to remain favorable, making grapes a strong promotional item.

### Grapes (Green)

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mexico (May - June) | Steady | $$$ | Good |

### Grapes (Red)

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mexico (May - June) | High | $$$ | Good |

## Green Onions

ALERT

Baja production is expected to remain very limited over the next2–3 weeks due to continued heat, lower yields, and lighter sizing. Tight supplies have firmed the market, with September water availability and potential monsoonal weather adding further risk. Fall production is expected to improve supplies by mid-to-late October.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mexico (Year Round) | Light | $$$ | Good |

## Kale

Kale supplies and quality remain good, with conditions expected to stay steady into next week.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mexico (Year Round) | Steady | $$$ | Good |
| Oxnard, California (Year Round) | Steady | $$$ | Good |
| Salinas, California (May - October) | Steady | $$$ | Good |

*Price Key:* $$$ *-Low,* $$$ *-Steady,* $$$ *-High*

*Supply Partners* Dole, Mann's, Field Fresh, Coastal Fresh, Queen Victoria, Fresh Link

# Commodity Updates

## Lettuce Iceberg

ALERT

Lower yields in the Salinas Valley and Santa Maria are keeping supplies tight and the market active. INSV continues to limit availability, while quality concerns include discoloration, misshapen heads, and insect damage. With reduced yields, ongoing disease pressure, and active demand, the market is expected to strengthen throughout the week.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| Santa Maria, California (March-December) | Light | $$$ | Fair |
| Salinas, California (May - October) | Light | $$$ | Fair |

## Lettuce Leaf

ALERT

Disease pressure on romaine, green leaf, and red leaf has eased in the Salinas Valley and Southern California, with supplies gradually improving and creating better availability. Romaine hearts remain moderately available, with the market expected to hold steady in the mid-to-high teens. Single-digit pricing is primarily limited to aged inventory.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| Salinas, California (May - October) | Steady | $$$ | Fair |

## Lettuce Tender Leaf

Spring Mix looks good overall, with some breakdown in the red varieties late in shelf life. Spinach supplies and quality remain strong, though minor insect pressure could increase heading into fall. Arugula is showing some seeding and flowering but remains in good condition overall.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mexico (Year Round) | Steady | $$$ | Good |
| Oxnard, California (Year Round) | Steady | $$$ | Good |
| Salinas, California (May - October) | Steady | $$$ | Fair |

## Melon (Cantaloupe)

Domestic cantaloupes are loading from Central California, with production peaking on 9ct. Supplies are good, with promotional opportunities available on new-crop fruit.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| Central America (December - May) | Steady | $$$ | Good |

*Price Key:* $$$ *-Low,* $$$ *-Steady,* $$$ *-High*

*Supply Partners*

# Commodity Updates

## Melon (Honeydew)

Domestic honeydews are loading from California's Westside region, with steady demand and supply. Product is peaking on 5ct, with good availability and sizing.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| Central America (December - May) | Steady | $$$ | Excellent |

## Melon (Watermelon)

Watermelon demand remains steady heading into the upcoming holiday, with retail ads starting this weekend. The market is expected to remain strong through the remainder of the month.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| Arizona (June-July) (October-November) | Steady | $$$ | Good |

## Mushroom

Due to new government duties, expect price increases as demand exceeds supplies.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nationwide | High | $$$ | Excellent |

## Onions

ALERT

Summer onion season is officially over, with storage onions now driving the market. Supplies remain tight due to strong demand and regional issues, while freight costs are adding pressure ahead of the holiday. Suppliers are building inventory, but larger sizes remain challenging.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| Eastern Orgeon/Parma, ID (August - April) | High | $$$ | Excellent |
| San Joaquin Valley (May - August) | Light | $$$ | Good |
| Tri-Cities, Washington (July - April) | High | $$$ | Good |

## Pears

Washington pear growers are in full production on Bartletts, with Starkrimson also underway and new-crop Anjou just around the corner. The market remains mostly steady, with some California Bartletts still available from the Central Valley.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Steady | $$$ | Good |

*Price Key:* $$$ *-Low,* $$$ *-Steady,* $$$ *-High*

*Supply Partners* JC Watson Packing Company, Rainier Fruit Company

# Commodity Updates

## Pineapples

ALERT

Pineapple supplies are tightening due to the natural flowering season, with open-market availability becoming more limited while contract orders remain covered. Quality is expected to stay good. Crownless 8ct and 10ct, along with organic pineapples, remain very tight, while 6ct and 7ct crowned supplies are improving. Minor port delays are possible over Labor Day weekend.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| Costa Rica (Year round) | Light | $$$ | Good |

## Potatoes

ALERT

Old-crop Burbank potatoes are officially finished, with new-crop sizing challenges expected to continue, particularly on 40/70ct. Lead time will be important to secure product. Washington potatoes have excellent quality, peaking on mid-sizes, while larger and smaller counts remain tight. Color potatoes are available from multiple growing regions, while California and North Carolina sweet potatoes remain limited until new crop arrives. Mississippi sweet potatoes are off to a slow start.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| Idaho Falls, Idaho (August-July) | Steady | $$$ | Good |
| Pasco, Washington (August-July) | Steady | $$$ | Excellent |

## Squash

Eastern squash supplies remain tight, with yellow more limited than zucchini, while NC/GA new crop begins this week. Santa Maria volumes are also light due to reduced fall plantings. Tight availability is expected to continue until late September/early October as Sonora ramps up production.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mexico (June - September) | Steady | $$$ | Good |
| Ohio/MI/OH/NJ/NC (June - September) | Steady | $$$ | Good |
| California (May - October) | Light | $$$ | Good |

## Stone Fruit

Peach and nectarine harvest is winding down and is expected to finish within the next three weeks. Sizing has improved significantly, with small fruit remaining limited, while white peaches and nectarines are nearly finished. Small black plums remain plentiful and well-priced, while red plums are tighter and mostly larger sizes. Chilean kiwi supplies remain limited with a strong market, and Chile will remain the primary source until California production resumes in the coming weeks.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| San Joaquin Valley | Steady | $$$ | Good |

## Tomatoes

**Round tomatoes** remain tight in the East due to heat and rain impacting packouts, while Western supplies are improving with Mexican and steady California volume. **Roma** supplies are also tight in the East, with steady availability from California, Baja, and Mexico, though the market could tighten into late September. **Grape tomato** availability is light to moderate, with new crops from Virginia, Mexico, and Baja expected to improve volume and quality over the next 2–3 weeks.

| Commodity/Region | Supply | Price | Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mexico (Year Round) | Steady | $$$ | Good |
| Baja California (Spring/Summer - November) | Steady | $$$ | Good |
| California (July - October) | Light | $$$ | Good |

*Price Key:* $$$ *-Low,* $$$ *-Steady,* $$$ *-High*

*Supply Partners*

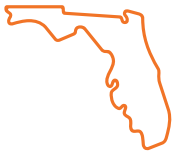
# Weather Updates

## CALIFORNIA

A trough over the West Coast will bring deep marine layer conditions, with spotty overnight and morning drizzle and temperatures near to below average. Morning lows will range from the low 40s to mid-50s, with daytime highs in the mid-to-upper 60s near the coast and low 70s to mid-80s inland. The trough will move east over the weekend as high pressure strengthens, allowing temperatures to warm closer to normal.

## MEXICO

Isolated to scattered afternoon and evening showers and thunderstorms are expected over the next five days, with most areas receiving 0.05–0.30" of rain and locally higher amounts possible. Cooler temperatures are expected, with highs in the low 70s to near 80 through the weekend and lows in the low 50s to low 60s through Sunday morning.



## FLORIDA

Sea-breeze and air-mass showers and thunderstorms will continue through midweek, followed by a short-wave trough later in the week that will keep rain chances elevated. A system that previously showed tropical characteristics could potentially redevelop, though this is not currently favored. Most showers will produce 0.05–0.30" of rain, with heavier amounts possible in thunderstorms. Afternoon wind gusts may reach around 15 mph across southeast Florida and the Tampa Bay area through midweek.

## ARIZONA

Dry conditions with near-to-below-average temperatures are expected Wednesday through Thursday evening. Monsoonal showers and thunderstorms will return to central Arizona early Thursday, continuing through Friday afternoon. Light rain chances are also possible across much of Arizona and southeast California Saturday night.

*For more information:* https://www.ventusky.com/?p=31.4;-89.7;3&l=rain-3h

# Freight Updates

Freight this week sees hints of fall markets showing up. Shipper delays and product availability is slowly starting to become a part of loading out west. As the days get shorter, we anticipate subtle changes in loading times, and that will affect transit. We are actively preparing for transition to the southern growing regions.

**U.S. On-Highway Diesel Fuel Prices*(dollars per gallon)** full history XLS

| | 08/17/26 | 08/24/26 | 08/31/26 | Change from 2 year ago | Change from year ago | Change from week ago |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| U.S. | 5.454 | 5.652 | 5.599 | ↑ 1.974 | ↑ 1.865 | ↓ -0.053 |
| East Coast (PADD1) | 5.340 | 5.498 | 5.448 | ↑ 1.762 | ↑ 1.698 | ↓ -0.050 |
| New England (PADD1A) | 5.545 | 5.716 | 5.736 | ↑ 1.817 | ↑ 1.788 | ↑ 0.020 |
| Central Atlantic (PADD1B) | 5.652 | 5.840 | 5.838 | ↑ 1.930 | ↑ 1.926 | ↓ -0.002 |
| Lower Atlantic (PADD1C) | 5.204 | 5.350 | 5.276 | ↑ 1.696 | ↑ 1.607 | ↓ -0.074 |
| Midwest (PADD2) | 5.435 | 5.636 | 5.571 | ↑ 1.958 | ↑ 1.849 | ↓ -0.065 |
| Gulf Coast (PADD3) | 5.237 | 5.481 | 5.360 | ↑ 2.095 | ↑ 1.993 | ↓ -0.121 |
| Rocky Mountain (PADD4) | 5.427 | 5.537 | 5.555 | ↑ 1.965 | ↑ 1.802 | ↑ 0.018 |
| West Coast (PADD5) | 6.203 | 6.407 | 6.497 | ↑ 2.204 | ↑ 2.013 | ↑ 0.090 |
| West Coast less California | 5.699 | 5.859 | 5.872 | ↑ 1.976 | ↑ 1.760 | ↑ 0.013 |
| California | 6.785 | 7.040 | 7.218 | ↑ 2.469 | ↑ 2.304 | ↑ 0.178 |

*prices include all taxes*

*For more information:* https://www.eia.gov/petroleum/gasdiesel/

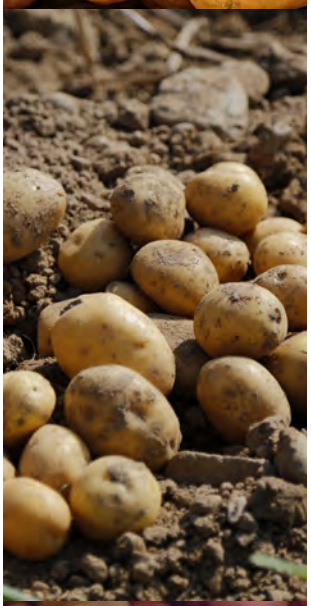
# Crop Updates

## In Idaho, Size Matters

It feels like we haven't seen a "normal" Idaho potato market in several years. Extreme highs have been followed by extreme lows, and as growers begin the 2026 harvest, Idaho is once again walking on eggshells waiting to see what this crop ultimately puts into the cellar.

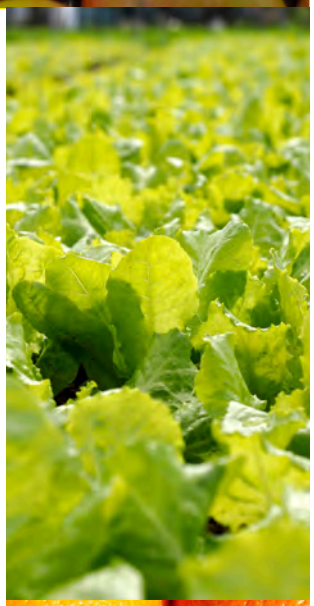
Early indications have not been encouraging. A cool spring slowed plant development, followed by periods of summer heat and warmer-than-normal nights that did not give the crop much opportunity to size. Early harvests are running smaller than expected, with grower reports showing very little product above 12 ounces and the crop currently peaking around 90-count. Large 40- and 50-count potatoes are expected to be especially scarce. Yields on some early acreage have been reported as much as 20% below last season, resulting in growers digging more acreage than originally planned to keep up with demand.

In a more typical year, harvest pressure often pushes FOBs lower after Labor Day before markets begin to firm again as harvest progresses and potatoes move into storage. This year, the concern is whether there will be enough large potatoes going into those cellars in the first place. We should have a much clearer picture later in September as the main storage harvest gets underway. Idaho's primary harvest traditionally runs through September and October, with the heaviest harvest period coming in late September and early October.



# Crop Updates

There are also some normal new-crop characteristics customers may notice. Freshly harvested Russets have not had time to completely cure, so skinning or feathering can be more prevalent. Once potatoes enter storage, they go through a sweat and curing period as field heat leaves the tubers. During this time, suberization helps harvest wounds heal while the skin continues to mature and set. This is what eventually gives Idaho Russets the familiar, mature skin appearance we see throughout most of the year and helps the crop maintain quality in storage well into the following summer.



New crop also creates an interesting challenge with No. 2 potatoes. Russet Norkotahs, the primary early-season variety, commonly produce a high percentage of No. 1-grade potatoes. That can leave fewer true No. 2s available early in the season. With fewer No. 2s available, customers will often substitute into smaller 80- through 120-count No. 1 potatoes. In a crop already weighted toward smaller sizes, that additional demand puts even more pressure on the same portion of the crop.

For now, size is the story in Idaho. There are still a lot of potatoes left to harvest, and it is too early to judge the entire storage crop from these early fields. But if the current size profile follows growers into the main harvest, large cartons could remain one of the biggest challenges as we move through the fall and into the storage season.