

FRESH LINK MARKET REPORTS

04/25/2024

RE: TOMATOES

Rounds

The round tomato market is witnessing a notable increase in prices, driven by factors such as large-sized fruit from Florida's new fields and a relatively limited supply from Mexico. Growers in Florida are struggling to source smaller-sized fruit, further exacerbating shortages on the supply side. Market conditions are expected to remain tight until sometime in June, with consistent demand and good quality reported. However, growers are facing pressure until they can start packing in spring regions, anticipated to begin later next week. Quality may vary over the next week, adding further uncertainty to the market.

Roma's

Roma markets have since corrected downward as supply outpaced demand, with most receivers holding sufficient inventory. Concerns regarding future supply shortages arise from reports indicating reduced water allocations, potentially affecting yields and quality. Despite this, there is currently good supply and quality available. However, volatility is expected to persist over the coming weeks as the market adjusts to changing conditions.

Grape

Grape tomato prices out of Mexico remain relatively stable, although there is a slight upward trend. Meanwhile, Florida has significantly raised its prices compared to the previous week. Notably, there is a greater demand for bulk grape tomatoes from both Mexico and Florida compared to clam-packaged varieties, leading to significantly higher prices per pound for bulk tomatoes. Quality and supply remain steady, particularly with crossings through McAllen and Nogales, but the market is still facing pressure due to supply shortages and increased demand.

Cherry

Recent market trends indicate a strengthening in the cherry tomato sector, as demand has proven robust enough to justify higher FOB prices. Both Florida and Mexico are contributing to the market, with varying qualities. While Mexico is showing gradual improvement in its crop, Florida maintains consistently high quality. However, despite this upward trend, prices continue to reach record highs due to supply imbalances on the east coast, stemming from reduced acreage and weather-related pressures. This imbalance is expected to persist until Florida can consistently increase its production volumes.

