

FRESH LINK MARKET REPORTS

March 29th, 2024 Fresh-Link Fruit 559.306.6900 I infoFLF@freshlk.com

MARKET UPDATE FOR TABLE GRAPES

WEEK OF MARCH 24 - MARCH 31

With nothing really changing any time soon regarding South American imported table grapes, retailers should start setting their focus on the upcoming harvest from Mexico. All indicators point to another bumper crop down south and, most importantly, a more consistent flow of fruit. Although growers from Jalisco will get started in early April, we won't see promotional volumes from Mexico until the first week in June and once it starts coming there should be a steady flow of fruit. This year's Mexican crop is estimated at just under 24 million 18# boxes and marketers should have 8-10 weeks to move this year's crop. Chilean volumes are still coming later than expected, so there is a reasonable expectation that we won't have a gap in May.

RED SEEDLESS

Week 10 exports from Chile hit just 1 million boxes, matching the same volumes shipped the prior week. That does not bode well for the spot market, as pricing should stay elevated throughout the balance of the month. We need to see at least 1.5 million boxes exported to make any impact on the market. Peak Chilean Crimson volumes are still weeks away and the longer the season gets stretched out, the more likely we are to be disappointed by the final numbers shipped. However let's be honest there is almost no fruit available for spot market sales, with marketers still unable to satisfy their existing programs.

GREEN SEEDLESS

Exports of Chilean Thompsons and Sweet Globes have reached 1.5 million boxes two weeks in a row, but the strong demand for green seedless has kept the spot markets unchanged. We are seeing mixed quality and condition making it more challenging for marketers to get super high prices for fruit that needs to be moved quickly. With programs still locked in at significantly lower pricing, pressure should remain on the spot market through the balance of the month.

Citrus

Although weather had improved in California the previous week, rain has showed up periodically several days this week already. Growers are again back to harvesting when the fields dry up enough to get in. Small citrus availability has loosened up just a little bit with little to offer spot market. Large citrus has good inventory with plenty of deals offered. With

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the majority of fancy citrus holding out for export, Navel availability will have more in the choice grade. Some growers are already considering tapping into Valencia harvests as their Navel stock starts to finish up, however, larger growers should have availability through May/June. Mandarins harvesting in earnest and are plentiful in the smaller size range of 40s through 28s. Cara Caras look to be available through April - look for deals on 56/72 sizes. Blood oranges are available, just very limited. 88/113s are the peak sizes. Growers should begin harvesting Valencia's in earnest late April/early May.

Melons

Decent supplies of offshore on both coasts. Market is still very high on all sizing. Honeydew supplies are more limited here on the West. Good quality on lopes and dewes as of now.

Very limited watermelons available out of both Nogales and McAllen. Quality has been mixed, with light coloring and lower sugar. Supplies look to be light until Northern Mexico gets underway, which is around April 15th.