

FRESH LINK MARKET REPORTS

12/06/2024

RE: TOMATOES

Rounds

The Round tomato market remains steady, with gradual improvements in supply from Florida and continued support from Mexico. Florida's availability has increased slightly but faces challenges with quality, as crops require reconditioning due to storm-related stress. Shrink rates remain high, and supply is insufficient to meet full pipeline demands. Mexico continues to fill supply gaps, maintaining stable pricing. Quality concerns persist for Florida-grown products, but improvements in supply over the coming weeks are expected to stabilize the market further.

Roma's

The Roma tomato market is extremely tight, driven by weather-induced supply constraints in mainland Mexico. Cold weather has slowed production, leading to increased market prices. Baja, Mexico, offers some relief with steady supplies, primarily of larger sizes, though smaller-sized Romas remain scarce. Florida and Georgia are contributing minimally at present, with new crops expected to start in about two weeks. Overall, the market is experiencing upward pricing pressure due to limited availability from mainland Mexico, while Baja-grown Romas have seen slight price reductions due to consistent volume.

Grape

The grape tomato market is under extreme pressure, characterized by critically low supplies and historically high prices. Mexico, including Baja, is the primary supplier, as Florida contributes minimally until its new crops start in about 7–10 days. Pricing is highly variable, with significant differences in quotes for bulk and clamshell packaging. Strong demand and limited production have caused significant market volatility, which is expected to persist for at least 2–3 weeks. Relief may come as Florida begins harvesting new crops, though normalization of supply chains could take longer.

Cherry

The cherry tomato market remains firm, with stable but elevated prices reflecting tight supply. The majority of supply originates from Mexico and Baja, with Canada providing limited greenhouse-grown quantities. Florida's contribution is minimal, as new crops are expected to begin in 7–10 days. Pricing is less volatile compared to grape tomatoes but remains high due to constrained availability. Once Florida's crops enter the market, supply is expected to improve, potentially stabilizing prices in the coming weeks.

