

FRESH LINK MARKET REPORTS

April 18th, 2024 Fresh-Link Fruit 559.306.6900 I infoFLF@freshlk.com

MARKET UPDATE FOR TABLE GRAPES

WEEK OF APRIL 22 - APRIL 28

Since last September supplies of table grapes in the U.S. have not been sufficient to meet industry needs and FOBs have held at historically high levels. Over the past two weeks, a combination of tempered retail demand and increased volumes from Chile and Mexico have finally stabilized the market. Due to compressed Chilean bulk vessel scheduling week 15, we will see 3.7 million boxes arrive at the end of the month. This volume should help the industry make a less stressful transition to Mexican supplies in May and keep the spot market for the best quality fruit stable, albeit still high in comparison to many past seasons.

RED SEEDLESS

Red seedless spot pricing has stayed elevated ranging from high 30's and as high as low 40's for the very best wholesale box, with some retail programs set between lower. We saw a sharp decline from Chile week 14, but that was followed by a surprising 1.7 million boxes loaded week 15. Mexico is still not expected to have any significant volumes of red grapes until 25th of May, so Chilean growers are counting on their quality to get them through the next 4 weeks. The good news is that there is finally enough fruit in the coolers and on water to keep the industry from possibly gapping.

GREEN SEEDLESS

We have seen the heaviest arrivals of Chilean green seedless over the past two weeks, with most of that fruit consisting of new proprietary varieties. It's taken more than three years for new plantings of Autumn Crisp and Sweet Globes to impact the market, but that volume is now something we should see consistently in April and May. There is still a wide range of quality and condition, so the spot market also has a big spread. Mexican volumes of Sweet Globes and Autumn Crisp from Jalisco have taken some market share, so Chilean importers are not taking the market for granted and will look to keep fruit moving.

Citrus

San Joaquin Valley was rained out over the weekend which has tightened up availability of oranges. With all the rain California has experienced recently, fruit is showing a large amount of scarring and puff further limiting the availability on fancy fruit. Growers looking to harvest the smaller sized Valencia's to cover the gap in small orange sizing. Mandarins still available in the smaller size range of 40s through 28s. Cara Caras beginning to wind

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down but should be offered through April – look for deals on 56/72 sizes. Star Ruby Grapefruit harvesting is going on every day growers can get into the groves, fruit is peaking in the mid-size range. D1 continues to produce fruit on the large end of the spectrum, there will be no relief in the smaller sizes typically required for DOD industries.

Melons

Better supplies this week as Mexico has started in a light way. Offshore cantaloupes and honeydews should continue through mid-May, especially on the East Coast. Domestic melons will start around the first week of May. Quality on cantaloupes and honeydews are excellent.

Warmer temps in Northern Mexico has finally come on, leading to heavy supplies crossing into Nogales. Markets have completely flipped, and continue to drop. The heat is improving quality greatly. We are about a month and a half away from starting our domestic watermelon crop out of Blythe, CA.