

FRESH LINK MARKET REPORTS

June 7th, 2024 Fresh-Link Fruit 559.306.6900 I infoFLF@freshlk.com

MARKET UPDATE FOR TABLE GRAPES

WEEK OF June 2- June 8

Importers on the East Coast are still receiving fresh arrivals of Chilean table grapes, but their window to move through this fruit is starting to close. Crossings of Mexican fruit into Nogales, AZ are increasing every day and most retailers will look to transition completely once they can cover all their needs. Pricing for Chilean fruit has dropped significantly, and quality is starting to decline as well. This is putting some early pressure on the spot market for Mexican fruit, but that could be a good thing. Mexico is projecting a crop well over 20 million boxes, so they will need to get FOBs down to promotable levels sooner than later. Look for steady volumes of all varieties of Mexican table grapes immediately after Memorial Day.

RED SEEDLESS

We have seen tremendous pressure on the Chilean red seedless market over the past 7 to 10 days, as importers realized they may not clean up before retailers completely transition to Mexican supplies. Quality on imported red grapes is also in question which is adding to the sliding market. Importers will have another week of lighter crossing of Flames from Mexico, but their window to move through remaining volumes is closing fast. Mexico will look for much higher pricing this week, but eventually will have to acquiesce to the lower priced imports and increased crossings.

GREEN SEEDLESS

Mexico has been crossing increased volumes of Early Sweets from Hermosillo and overall spot market pricing has adjusted lower over the past 7 days. FOBs for the best quality Chilean fruit have been stable, with most cheaper lots not good enough to meet retail spec. Most retailers are ready to completely switch to Mexico, now that supplies can support that move, so importers with heavy stocks may be facing a declining customer base.

Citrus

Pricing on Navels beginning to trend up as they start phasing out for the season. With Schools looking to shut down for the summer, demand on small 113/138s oranges is commencing to slow down. Valencia price on smaller fruit is trending down, however, look

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for pricing to start trending upward mid to late July. Domestic Lemons still on the large side with limited to non-existent availability in the small spectrum. Import Lemons should be available by next week with size structure peaking heavily on the large spectrum.

Melons

Starting to see better volume on cantaloupes out of the desert. It was a slow start, but with a major heatwave going through the desert, we expect volume to pick up significantly. Once growers hit their stride end of this week and the start of next, the fields should hold up and carry growers through the end of June in good shape. We are also starting to see a shift in the sizing profile. Next week, we anticipate 9s/J9s to be the predominant size, as smaller fruit will look to faze out a bit. Honeydews are still struggling a bit on production. The hopes are for the newer fields to really open up and show improvement on yields and szing.

Northern Mexico watermelon crop feels as if they are starting to wind down with volume and quality. Domestic watermelons are right around the corner! We will be shipping our own watermelons out of Blythe, CA this summer. Our first shipments of domestic watermelons have been sent out, and the fruit is looking very nice. Very nice color, with a very high brix. Our domestic season will look to go through July 15th.