

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 29 - MAY 5

Volumes of Chilean table grapes continue to hit the East Coast, with almost 2 million boxes loaded week 16. Although those shipments are half of what was shipped the previous week, imports will stretch well into May. Jalisco, Mexico has already been shipping and growers in Hermosillo are getting ready to start harvesting by the 8th of May. Because Chilean quality has been inconsistent, marketers have been reluctant to move the spot market higher. Even though we won't see promotable volumes of Mexican fruit until after Memorial Day, marketers know they can't get complacent and need to keep fruit moving. This all points to a reasonable transition to Mexican supplies with stable spot pricing.

RED SEEDLESS

Marketers know they still have 4 weeks to move through remaining fruit on water and currently in cold storages, but the storability of this fruit is in question. Importers will continue to receive Chilean red seedless well into May. It appeared that we might see a gap in supply with Mexico not expected to get going until the 25th of May, but volumes and demand are in balance, which hopefully means a reasonable transition to Mexico.

GREEN SEEDLESS

The green seedless market is complicated because there is a wide range of quality and condition. Importers and growers were projecting higher prices for Thompsons and Timson, but this fruit does not have the legs to store long term. Brazilian quality has also been very inconsistent with many lots not making US#1. That fruit is now being re-exported to Canada and now that market is inundated with average quality fruit. Retailers will still be paying a premium for the best quality green grapes.

Citrus

As San Joaquin Valley weather warms up, growers are able to harvest more vigorously. Still experiencing rain between extremely warm days. With all the rain California has received recently, fruit is showing a large amount of scarring and puff further limiting the availability on fancy fruit. Navels are phasing out for most growers, however, bigger packinghouses will still have Navels through June in the Lane Late variety. These will be large with nothing in the small spectrum, growers are harvesting the smaller sized Valencia's to cover the gap.

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Most Valencia growers are peaking 88/113s/72 with very little 138s available. Mandarins still available in the smaller size range of 28s through 40s. Cara Caras have a couple of weeks left, size spectrum ranging 88s and larger with lots of inventory for deals. 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.