

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 14 - April 20

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

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

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still available in the smaller size range of 40s through 28s. Cara Caras beginning to wind 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.