

FRESH LINK MARKET REPORTS

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RE: TOMATOES

Rounds

Round tomato growers in South Florida are finishing up their season this week, with a transition to North Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina expected in the next week or so. The quality of round tomatoes remains good as the South Florida season concludes. California's round tomato season is about to start, with mature greens from the desert available this week and Valley fruit expected in early June. The overall market conditions for round tomatoes remain similar to last week, with consistent demand and no significant changes. On the East Coast, the market remains soft with fair to good quality, particularly peaking on larger sizes as the spring harvest continues. In Mexico, good supply and quality of round tomatoes are available from Jalisco and Baja.

Roma's

The Roma tomato market presents a mixed picture. In Florida, the Palmetto/Ruskin area's season is mostly done, while North Florida and Georgia are starting in a small capacity with increased volumes expected next week, despite a current production gap. In Mexico, very hot temperatures, water scarcity, and issues with drip irrigation systems are leading to poor-quality Romas. The Baja Peninsula is producing high-quality Romas, with market prices on par with or higher than those from Mainland Mexico, though additional freight costs make them more expensive in the Midwest. On the East Coast, the Roma market remains firm with a steady supply and good overall quality.

Grape

Grape tomatoes in the Southeast, specifically Florida and Georgia, are experiencing a production gap, though some production has started in North Florida and South Georgia, with better volumes anticipated next week. Mexico is supplying plenty of grape tomatoes, though the quality is inconsistent, with higher-quality lots being priced a couple of dollars higher. Overall, there is an excellent supply and quality available on the East Coast, particularly in Florida and Georgia.

Cherry

The market for cherry tomatoes shows a tightening supply in Central Florida and the Palmetto-Ruskin area as the season comes to an end. However, a good volume is expected next week. In Mexico, cherry tomatoes crossing through McAllen and Baja vary in quality, with reports indicating a mix of both good and weaker lots. Some greenhouse-grown cherry tomatoes are also available from these regions. Despite the variability, there is a steady supply and good quality overall in the market.

