

FRESH LINK MARKET REPORTS

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Bell Peppers-

Limited and on the verge of becoming VERY TIGHT. Cooler weather in the Northeast and Midwest will shut these Fall plantings down quickly and supply along with it. With the recent Hurricane in South Georgia, the Pepper crop is extremely limited with no aid from out West as of yet. Look for the Pepper market to continue to climb week over week throughout this month. Unfortunately, with the Hurricane Milton immediately following Helene, this issue could be ongoing for months.

Cucumbers –

Cucumbers have been one of the few promotable items in the southeast for several weeks but the market will shift quickly as these Local deals exit and demand will become reliant on MX supply with pockets of Georgia crop avail. However, by this weekend we will see the limited fields that did make it thru the storm come back online albeit at diminished production. The good news is Western production will increase each week from here on out and fill the gaps from the lack of Southeastern production, of course at a price. Look for lighter supplies as we get into early next week with a market increase coming

Eggplant –

Market has been steady. We are seeing the last out of Local before exiting in regions such as Michigan, Ohio, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, etc. In some of the less covered fields in Georgia, many fields were lost due to the wind completely blowing the poles and plantings out of the ground leaving some fields as bare dirt. We have heard some growers experienced complete and total crop loss due to the previous weather. It will be a few more weeks until Nogales starts producing any meaningful volume. Look for the Eggplant market to become more challenging as we get into next week and each week thereafter.

Squash-

Only pockets of volume are available on the East. Limited Georgia production will remain in effect for the next week or so as we incurred a significant bloom drop from the previous Hurricane. Blooms have started to reset and some type of limited GA

production will be back online in 7-10 days. Local will be finished likely by this weekend or early next week putting more pressure on the Southeast to meet demand. Heavier demand shifted out West this week with those experiencing shortages in the Southeast and Local declining. Look for the Squash market to become tighter with market pricing increasing by the day. Yellow Squash will fetch a premium for quality reasons and overall lack of supply.

Corn-

We saw a surge 7 days ago on demand which was centered a lot out of fear on post-hurricane unknowns. Bulk corn drops off significantly in-store and we are seeing bulk orders decrease by almost the day. Georgia corn growers experienced crop losses of approximately 20-30%. This will keep the Corn market *challenging* and price points will remain elevated for the foreseeable future. Because of Hurricane Milton and multiple days of unrelated rain we unfortunately do not expect the situation to get better but likely worse for the Winter plantings. Fields cannot withstand 90mph sustained winds and consistent rainfall. Look for a troubling Corn market ahead with limited supply in a dark tunnel with no light at its' end.

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