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## Market Alerts

**SEVERE WEATHER ALERT**– Unseasonably cold temperatures and heavy rains continue to affect many crops grown in California and Yuma AZ. Quality and availability of products impacted include **Strawberries, Iceberg, Romaine, Celery, Cauliflower, Broccoli** and **Brussels Sprouts**.

**BROCCOLI** – Supplies of Broccoli Crowns and Florets are light, and pricing is higher than normal, with fair to good quality reported.

**STRAWBERRIES** – Poor growing conditions (cold and rain) in California continue to affect quality throughout the market. Pricing is fairly stable, but quality remains fair to poor. Short shelf life, white shoulders and decay are reported. **Blackberries, Blueberries** and **Raspberries** are all better quality options.

**LETTUCE** – The quality of **Iceberg**, and to a lesser degree **Romaine** and **Leaf Lettuce**, is fair at best. Puffiness, ribbing and short shelf life are all common issues, and pricing is higher than normal. Consider using **Romaine Hearts** or **pre-cut product** for best overall value.

**CELERY** – Pricing remains very high on both bulk and pre-cut Celery, also due light supplies from the cold, wet conditions in Yuma. Quality is fair to good.

**CAULIFLOWER**- The cold, wet conditions in Yuma AZ have tightened supplies of Cauliflower Heads and Florets. Pricing is higher than normal and quality is good to fair, with some bruising and yellowing reported.

**SOFT VEGETABLES:** Bell Peppers and Cucumbers are in a growing gap, both in Florida and Mexico. Pricing is higher than normal, particularly for Red Bells, and quality is fair across the board. Choice Grade Green Bells and Select Grade Cucumbers are the best values.

## A Peek at Peak Seasons

**Late Winter Greens** – Endive, Chicory and Frisee are all available. All are great cold-weather menu favorites!

**Swiss Chard** – Great quality on Green, Red and Rainbow Chard out of California and Mexico.

**Chili Peppers** – Anaheim, Serrano and Pasilla Peppers are all very good quality.

**Berries** – Blackberries and Blueberries are very good quality and pricing.

**Specialty Potatoes** – Quality is great on all Colored, Fingerling and Yukon Potatoes.

**Squash** – Green (Zucchini) and Yellow Squash are great quality in all sizes.

**Grapefruit** – Texas and Florida are at peak harvest on Ruby Reds.

## Weather Update

**California:** A cold front and heavy showers expected mid-week.

**Yuma, AZ:** Warmer temperatures than in the past few weeks, with gusty winds.

**Mexico:** Seasonal temperatures and precipitation.

**Florida:** Cooler temperatures and gusty winds expected.



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# Commodities at a Glance

 APPLES	Quality is good, 125 CT and smaller sizes will be less available through the summer	 CELERY	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 LETTUCE LEAF	Quality is fair, pricing is higher
 ASPARAGUS	Quality and pricing are good, with smaller sizes the best value	 CITRUS (LEMONS)	Quality and pricing are good	 LETTUCE TENDER LEAF	Quality and pricing are good
 AVOCADO	Quality and pricing are good	 CITRUS (LIMES)	Quality and pricing are good	 MELON (CANTALOUPE)	Quality and pricing are good
 BELL PEPPERS	Quality is good, pricing is higher. Red and Yellow pricing is very high.	 CITRUS (ORANGES)	Quality and pricing are good	 MELON (HONEYDEW)	Quality is good, pricing is fair
 BERRIES (BLACKBERRIES)	Quality and pricing are good	 CUCUMBERS	Quality is good, pricing is higher on Eastern product	 MELON (WATERMELON)	Quality and pricing are good
 BERRIES (BLUEBERRIES)	Quality and pricing are good	 EGGPLANT	Quality is fair, pricing is good	 ONIONS	Quality and pricing are good
 BERRIES (RASPBERRIES)	Quality and pricing are good	 GARLIC	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 PEARS	Quality and pricing are good
 BERRIES (STRAWBERRIES)	Quality is poor, pricing may be higher	 GRAPES (GREEN)	Quality and pricing are good	 PINEAPPLES	Quality and pricing are good
 BROCCOLI	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 GRAPES (RED)	Quality and pricing are good	 POTATOES	Quality and pricing are good
 BRUSSELS SPROUTS	Quality is fair to poor, pricing is higher	 GREEN ONIONS	Quality and pricing are good	 POTATOES (COLORED)	Quality and pricing are good
 CARROTS	Quality and pricing are good	 KALE	Quality and pricing are good	 SQUASH	Quality and pricing are good
 CAULIFLOWER	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 LETTUCE ICEBERG	Quality is fair, pricing is very high	 TOMATOES	Quality and pricing are good

