



On The Horizon

Abbreviated PMA Edition

MARKET UPDATE

Tomatoes:

Hurricane Michael came through the heart of Quincy, decimating most of the tomato acreage. There are a couple of growers that are going to salvage for a few days, but for all practical purposes there's no crop in Quincy. Georgia also received crop damages. There is a little acreage in the Moultrie area that escaped serious damage, but unfortunately, these are small deals with limited volumes. Palmetto/ Ruskin growers continue to get up and running slowly but surely. Grape tomatoes have already started and some are beginning to pick a few rounds. The first roma harvests are still about two weeks away. Although growers in the area are up and running, we don't expect substantial volumes until the 1st or 2nd week in November.

Volume is beginning to slow in CA's San Joaquin Valley as growers begin to drop out. However, we do expect to have rounds and romas from the area until the end of October. Tropical storm Sergio passed through Mexico last week, dropping rain in Baja and Eastern Mexico. Initial quality of Fall crops in Baja will likely show effects of the precipitation, but should clean up as growers move further into the season. Eastern Mexico expects sporadic production for the next several weeks due to the storm. Grape tomatoes (both organic and conventional) continue to be very snug out of Mexico.

Bell Peppers: The pepper deal is very snug in the East. GA has a mixed report on the storm - mature pepper was heavily damaged but younger plants may pull through and provide some supply in a few weeks. SC growers continue to have product, but there are quality challenges due to rain that has reduced retail-friendly yields. There's currently a little product in Plant City, but not nearly enough to meet demand. South Florida will start in a light way in 2 weeks, which

will hopefully begin to provide some relief. In the West, California's green bell production is transitioning from the Valley to the Desert. With Mainland Mexico not projected to start until mid to end November and increased demand from the East, availability will remain tight.

Cucumbers: Cucumber production remains light in Baja, but is expected to pick up as the last of the fields come into production this weekend. The hurricane did not affect crops in Mainland Mexico, but did keep them out of the fields for a few days. Growers are catching up on harvesting and there should be an increase in production going into the weekend. We will see light colored cukes due to the rains but condition has not been an issue. In the East, cucumber supply is limited to GA, where there are a few houses working limited volumes post storm, and Plant City, FL, where acreage is light. South Florida will start in a light way after November 1st with volumes gradually building.

Summer Squash: Much of GA's squash crop was in the Lake Park area, where there was some damage but crops were not a total loss. Although there are always challenges with yellow when weather has come through, quality is surprisingly "okay" so far. Plant City is also running product and South Florida will be in business in about 2 weeks. In the West, Santa Maria is on their last hurrah as they finish up for the season. As Mainland Mexico gets past last weekend's rains and things dry out, we are expecting increases over the next couple weeks

Eggplant: California's Fresno area is still going with eggplant harvests and will continue for another 2 weeks, as long as the weather permits. The California Desert is in with good supplies and expects to go through November. Mainland Mexico's first eggplant harvests are on track to get started next week. In the East, eggs are mostly a GA deal, where availability is limited at this time.

Green Beans: Beans are extremely tight in the East. The North Carolina shore deal is finally up and going, but volume is light from this deal. GA also has limited supply. With all the rain these areas have received, bean quality is just okay. Beans look to be extremely short until Florida comes into season in the first part of November. Limited volume continues across all districts of beans in California (Fresno, Watsonville, Stockton, Santa Maria and Fullerton areas). Supplies are anticipated to remain light over the next 1-2 weeks. The CA desert has begun in a limited way and is expecting to increase next week as other growing deals will get underway.

Hard Squash: With Fall upon us, hard squash is entering its promotional time frame. Quality has been great and volume is steady out of CA. Sonora, Mexico has begun and will definitely add to the available supply out of the West. In the East, there are a variety of local deals shipping hard squash with some hotspots of volume in NY, PA, etc. MI is finishing up and GA still has fruit for sale as well.

Chili Peppers: Hot peppers are in the same situation as green bells.....With Santa Maria slowing down along with Baja, and Mainland slowly starting, the Western chili situation is expected to be snug for the short term. There's a little volume coming out of GA, but not much product to speak of in the East this week.



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