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## Market Alerts

**Lettuce** – The cold weather and plant icing in Yuma AZ continues to affect quality and supplies of all head lettuce. Pricing on **Iceberg heads** is higher than normal. **Romaine Hearts** and **pre-cut product** are the best cost and quality options.

**Broccoli/Cauliflower** – The weather and icing in Yuma is also affecting Broccoli and Cauliflower, particularly bunched and head product. Pricing is higher than normal. **Crowns** and **Florets** are the best values.

**Arugula** – Supplies of Arugula are very limited, again due to the cold wet weather in primary growing regions. Quality is fair, pricing may be higher, and orders may be shorted. Consider using **Spring Mix**, **Arcadian Blend** or **Spinach** as alternatives.

**Soft Squash** – Supplies of **Zucchini** and **Yellow Squash** are very light in all growing regions. Quality is fair, particularly out of Florida, and pricing is higher than normal. Limit use where possible, and consider using seasonal hard squashes as an alternative.

**Bell Peppers** – Supplies of **Green Bells** have tightened due to slow growth in both Florida and Mexico. Pricing is higher than normal, and **Choice-Grade product** is the best value.

**Tomatoes** – High pricing and fair quality is expected to continue through mid-to-late January for most varieties as Mexico recovers from recent severe weather and flooding. **Roma** and **Grape Tomatoes** are the most impacted, and **5x6 Rounds and smaller** are the best values.

**Asparagus** – Peru and Mexico continue to have light harvests. Pricing is up to 40% higher than normal, particularly in the Western half of the country. **Pencil** and **Standard** sizes are the best value.

**Avocados (Mexican)**- Shortage of labor during the holidays in Mexico has created a shortage of fruit in the pipeline. Market has increased 20% over the past week and will continue to increase leading into the Super Bowl.

## A Peek at Peak Seasons

**Cantaloupe** – The Central American crop is in full swing, with excellent sugar levels, color and shelf life.

**Strawberries** – All growing regions are harvesting very good quality fruit.

**Cold-Weather Citrus** – Specialty Citrus is now available in most markets. Blood Oranges, Mandarins, Tangelos and more—ask your distributor for recommendations.

**Blueberries** – Quality is very nice and pricing is good on imports from Mexico and South America.

**Blackberries** – Quality is very nice and supplies are abundant.

**Apples** – All seasonal varieties continue to be plentiful, with excellent quality.

**Eggplant** – Ideal growing conditions for Eggplant in both South Florida and Mexico are yielding abundant supplies and very good quality.

**Pears** – All winter varieties are available, with very nice quality

## Weather Update

**California:** Mostly dry conditions and cool temperatures

**Yuma AZ** – Overnight freezing continues through most of the week

**Mexico:** Seasonal temperatures and precipitation

**Florida:** Warm, humid conditions and isolated showers



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# Commodities at a Glance

 APPLES	Quality and pricing are good	 CELERY	Quality and pricing are good	 LETTUCE LEAF	Quality is fair, pricing is higher
 ASPARAGUS	Quality is good, pricing is very high	 CITRUS (LEMONS)	Quality and pricing are good	 LETTUCE TENDER LEAF	quality is fair, pricing is higher.
 AVOCADO	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 CITRUS (LIMES)	Quality and pricing are good	 MELON (CANTALOUPE)	Quality and pricing are good
 BELL PEPPERS	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 CITRUS (ORANGES)	Quality and pricing are good, 88 CT and larger are the best values	 MELON (HONEYDEW)	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BERRIES (BLACKBERRIES)	Quality and pricing are good	 CUCUMBERS	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 MELON (WATERMELON)	Quality and pricing are good
 BERRIES (BLUEBERRIES)	Quality and pricing are good	 EGGPLANT	Quality and pricing are good	 ONIONS	Quality and pricing are good
 BERRIES (RASPBERRIES)	Quality and pricing are good	 GARLIC	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 PEARS	Quality and pricing are good
 BERRIES (STRAWBERRIES)	Quality and pricing are good	 GRAPES (GREEN)	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 PINEAPPLES	Quality and pricing are good
 BROCCOLI	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 GRAPES (RED)	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 POTATOES	Quality is good, pricing is higher, 80 CT and smaller are the best value
 BRUSSELS SPROUTS	Quality is good to fair, pricing is slightly higher	 GREEN ONIONS	Quality is poor, pricing is higher	 POTATOES (COLORED)	Quality and pricing are good
 CARROTS	Quality and pricing are good	 KALE	Quality is fair, pricing is higher.	 SQUASH	Zucchini and Yellow quality is fair, pricing is higher. Hard Squash quality and pricing are good.
 CAULIFLOWER	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 LETTUCE ICEBERG	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 TOMATOES	Quality is fair, pricing is higher, 5X6 and smaller Rounds are the best value

