



4/27/2017

GRAPES – Here is a brief update on the Mexico/California early Table Grape season. Projected start dates for Mexico have been pushed back at least 7 days due to the cooler weather we've had the past few days and predicted for the upcoming week. We are now looking at May 5th-May 8th for the early varieties and the middle of May for the Sugraones.

Coachella is also behind at least 7 days and projected to start with perlettes, sugraones and flames around May 8th but could be later that week. Black grapes are expected later in the month. These start dates are now 7-10 days later than last year and we won't see better volume in until late May. We could still see good volume for Memorial Day promotions weather permitting. These projections are all based on Mother Nature of course.

Not much has changed and we are still expecting to see a normal volume crop with good quality in Mexico, but in Coachella volume could be down due to some varieties being pulled out. Last year's final box count from Mexico ended up slightly less than the year before and this year is expected to be much more due to higher bunch counts. It is still very early and anything can happen. I don't think anyone really knows until we get into the deal and we actually see fruit in the box. With better winter and pre-season weather this year, most shippers are confident that this year's crop will be strong in quality and numbers. Red grape bunch counts and sizing, in both districts, look to be normal or above normal. Green grapes in general, seem to have better bunch counts than last year in both districts. Scarlet Royals look to have above average bunch counts at this point in Coachella only. Perlettes and blacks are anybody's guess and red globes are too early to tell. There should be better numbers from the newer varieties this year also. Please call for details. We can include organic grapes along with the conventional grape timeframe and it looks like this year we should have a few more shippers involved with organic out of Mexico.

Weather in the Coachella Valley is expected to be in the 90's to low 100's. The nights will be mostly in the 60's with some nights reaching the very low 70's. Southern Mexico will have similar weather as the Coachella Valley. Remember that this time of the year is very volatile for temperature changes in both districts.

TREE FRUIT – The stone fruit season has started in a small way in California with apricots, white peaches and yellow nectarines. Apricots could be a little off this year on volume. Also, as I am sure that most of you know already, the southeastern tree fruit growers were hit dramatically by spring weather which will affect their volume significantly. Beware, as this should affect the way California growers market their fruit this year. With the up and down winter and spring weather we have had, it shouldn't affect the volume and quality early on. Volume seems to be normal this year. We should see some cherries next week.

South Valley – Kern and South Tulare County Projections

Tulare – super light set

Brooks – light to average set / ranch specific – South Valley is very spotty

Corals – decent set

Rainiers – not sure yet

Central Valley – Kings, Tulare and Fresno County Projections

Brooks and Tulare – better set, still lighter than expected

Corals seem more consistent and looks like the Coral crop is stronger than in the south.

MELONS – The weather in the Imperial Valley and Arizona is now averaging in the 90's to low 100's. Melon shippers are expecting a good season and healthy crop. We will have updated information on estimated start dates next week.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Shipper</u>	<u>Cantaloupe</u>	<u>Honeydew</u>	<u>Mixed Melons</u>	<u>Watermelon</u>	<u>Estimated Start Date</u>
Yuma	Legend	X				May 10
Yuma	Pura Vida	X				May 20
Yuma	Fisher	X	X			May 10
Brawley	Five Crowns	X				May 1
Brawley	Five Crowns		X	X		May 10
El Centro	Pappas	X	X			May 10-15
Blythe	Fisher	X	X	X		June 1
Blythe	Players	X	X	X		June 5-10
Bakersfield	Andrews		X		X	June 20
Goodyear	Del Monte	X	X			May 20
Maricopa	Legend	X	X			May 15-20

As always, please feel free to call for more details. Thank you!

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