



GRAPES – Here is a brief update on the Mexico/California early Table Grape season. Projected start dates for Mexico are somewhere between April 25 - May 2 for Perlettes and Prime green seedless and May 2-7 for Flames. Black grapes are expected around the week of May 7th. Sugraones may start the week of May 14th for the Sonora deal, but could be later. The Jalisco deal has started in a small way with Ivory, Sweet Globe and Cotton Candy. Coachella is projected to start with Perlettes, Earli Sweets and Flames as early as May 2nd but most likely the week of the 7th. Black grapes and Sugarones could start around May 14th. It is looking like it could be a stop and go start at the beginning in both districts. These start dates are close to last year but as always, the upcoming weather will have a say in when the fruit will actually be picked.

We are expecting to see overall volume somewhat down from last year's bumper crop out of Mexico and also off in Coachella. Last year's final box count from Mexico ended up over 20 million and this year it is estimated to be more of a normal number around 15 million. The industry estimate will come out this Friday. 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 very erratic weather in both districts, it will really be anyone's guess as what the final numbers could be in Mexico and Coachella. Red grape bunch counts are light on the front end in both districts, and normal after Memorial Day. Green grapes in general, are off also. Scarlet Royals in Coachella will be down this year. 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 as well. Please call for details. We can include organic grapes along with the conventional grape timeframe.

Weather in the Coachella Valley is expected to be in the upper 90's to low 100's into the early part of next week, and the following week. The nights will stay cool in the low to mid 60's for this weekend and next. 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 should start in a small way in California late this week or next week with apricots, white and yellow peaches and yellow nectarines out of the Kettleman area. Apricots most likely will be off this year on volume. Also, for the month of May, the volume will be off on all varieties. With the up and down winter and spring weather we have had, it will affect the early volume. I am still gathering information on cherries, but keep in mind we had quite a few more storms this year and are expecting another one to come through tomorrow. We could have a few cherries the week of April 23th.

The California cherry crop is mimicking the 2014 start. There aren't enough chill hours and 3 days of hard frost was the main reason for this projected tough start. A 6-8 million box California deal will struggle to hit the 4 million mark this season. Arvin through Tulare County will see massive losses. Brooks and Tulare's were hit the hardest. There should be more Corals and Rainiers later. Bings could also be down 20%.

Here are some of the early varieties and approximate start dates:

Yellow Nectarine	Honey May	4/30	Pluot	Crimson Heart	5/30
	Reed	5/4			
	Zee Fire	5/16	Apricot	Dream Cot	4/28
				Poppy Cot	5/5
White Nectarine	Polar Light	5/18		Kylese	5/6
				Sol Cot	5/6
Yellow Peach	May Princess	4/25		Wes Cot	5/13
	Krista	5/13			
	Spring Flame	5/16	Black Plum	Belladonna	5/21
	Princess Time	5/21		Black Rose	5/22
White Peach	Snow Angel	4/25	Red Plum	Crimson Heart	5/30
	Snow Lady	5/13		Royal Zee	5/31
	Rich Snow	5/20			
	May Saturn	5/21			

MELONS – The desert has had some mild weather except for occasional high winds. They are currently experiencing higher temperatures during the day with cooler nights. Here are the estimated start dates.

Area	Shipper	Cantaloupe	Honeydew	Mix Melons	Organics
Brawley	Legend	April 28			
Brawley	Five Crowns	May 5	May 5	May 5	
Holtville	Vessey	May 15-16			
Yuma	Savory Fresh			May 7	
Yuma	Pura Vida	May 18	May 19-20	May 25	
Yuma	Legend	May 4-6			
Maricopa	Santa Rosa/Legend	May 4-5	10-May		
Aguila	Martori	May 14-15	end of May		end of May
Goodyear	Del Monte	May 28-29	May 28-29		
Blythe	Players	June 5	June 5	June 5	

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

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