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## Produce Field Update – Growing Area Information

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**Date of Creation: April 21, 2011**

**Store Deliveries starting: April 25, 2011**

### **East Coast Vegetable Commodities:**

#### **Asparagus:**

Very light supplies are currently available from Indiana. Michigan has been delayed to the cool weather. The estimated start date now looks like May 12-14 in limited supplies.

#### **Broccoli:**

Georgia and South Carolina are harvesting in steady supplies. The quality is good. Mexican crowns available in steady supplies from South Texas. Markets are weaker.

#### **Cabbage:**

Florida and Texas are the main areas going. Markets are stronger. We also have red & Savoy cabbage available in steady supplies. Quality is good.

#### **Carrots:**

Georgia is harvesting with limited supplies. Markets are firm. Expect light supplies through April.

#### **Celery:**

Florida is harvesting with steady supplies. Quality is good. Florida will finish this week on 24ct and 30ct. The 36ct will finish next week.

#### **Collard Greens:**

South Carolina, Georgia and Texas are the main areas we have been pulling from. Markets are steady. We can pack 6ct, 12ct, 24ct, and bins, as well as 1# and 2# consumer packs. We also can get them with PLU's.

#### **Colored Bell Peppers:**

Florida is harvesting red, yellow and orange currently in light supplies. The quality is fair to good. Markets are strong.

#### **Corn:**

Florida is harvesting in steady supplies on yellow and bicolor. White remains the lightest availability of the three colors. White corn has been reduced in plantings due to lack of demand. The quality is good.

#### **Cucumbers:**

Markets are weaker. Quality from Florida is fair to good. Georgia expected to start the first week of May.

#### **Eggplant:**

Florida is harvesting in better supplies. We expect supplies to increase at a higher level the first week of May. Markets are weaker. The quality is good. There is also some product coming from the Dominican Republic which loads in South Florida.

#### **Grape Tomatoes:**

We are loading from Florida with steady supplies. Markets are firm due to strong demand. The gold grapes and organics are available in steady supplies. Quality is good.



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**Green Beans:**

Florida is harvesting in steady supplies from South Florida. Markets are weaker. Quality is good. We also have wax, poles and KY beans available in fair supplies. We expect to start Georgia beans around May 5.

**Green Bell Peppers:**

Markets are steady on all sizes. Jumbo size is the best size available currently. Florida is the main area we have been pulling from. Quality ranges from fair to good. Some shippers feel the markets will be stronger next week as South Florida is winding down.

**Hard Squash:**

Markets are firm on acorn, butternut, spaghetti and buttercup. We are loading mostly product from Honduras and Mexico. There is some Florida product starting to show up.

**Heirloom Tomatoes (Ugly Tomatoes):**

Supplies have improved. Markets are steady. Quality is good.

**Peppers:**

We are currently loading variety hot peppers from Florida and Texas. Good availability from both areas. Markets are steady on all varieties. Quality is good.

**Mustard Greens:**

South Carolina, Texas, and Georgia are harvesting in steady supplies. We can pack in 6ct, 12ct, 24ct as well as 1# and 2# consumer packs. Markets are steady.

**Radishes:**

Florida is shipping steady supplies. Markets are steady. Bunch radish is available in light supplies from Florida.

**Roma Tomatoes:**

Florida continues to harvest in limited supplies. Markets are strong. Quality ranges from fair to poor. Mexican romas are also available in very light supplies. We expect better supplies in Florida by late next week.

**Sweet Onion:**

Texas 1015 onions are available in good supplies. Markets are weak. Quality is good. Vidalia onions are available in good supplies. Quality is good. Markets are steady in Georgia.

**Sweet Potatoes:**

Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, North Carolina and Arkansas are shipping in steady supplies. Markets are steady. We are shipping cured potatoes. Quality ranges from fair to good.

**Tomatoes:**

Florida is harvesting in a little better supplies. Markets are a little weaker. Quality has improved from Florida.

**Turnip Greens:**

South Carolina, Texas and Georgia are harvesting in good supplies. Quality is good. Markets are steady.

**Yellow Squash:**

Supplies are fair from Florida. Markets are firm. Quality is fair to good. Expect to see some scarring in product from Florida. Markets are steady.

**Zucchini:**

Supplies are better from Florida. Quality has improved. Markets are firm.



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## **East Coast Fruit Commodities:**

### **Apples:**

New York and Pennsylvania are shipping Reds, Romes, Empires, Fuji, Cortlands, McIntosh, and Golds. You can expect larger fruit this year with all the different varieties. Michigan is harvesting Empires, Jonathans, Golds, and Romes.

### **Grapefruit:**

Florida and Texas are harvesting currently. Texas has finished with fancy fruit. Texas will be shipping only choice fruit moving forward. Florida has #1 fruit still available. Florida will go into the first week of May and Texas will go until May 10<sup>th</sup>. However the quality is diminishing with the fruit as it has been on the trees for a long time now.

### **Limes:**

Guatemala and Mexico are harvesting with lighter supplies due to the holiday. Markets are stronger. The quality is good.

### **Oranges:**

Florida is harvesting the Valencia crop that will run on into late May to early June. Quality is very nice.

### **Papaya:**

Solo papayas are available in steady supplies. Quality is good.

### **Peaches:**

Florida is harvesting in very limited supplies. The fruit is not sizing up as fast as expected. There is limited volume from Florida this year. The peaches are tree ripe and are packed in single layer only. Also the Florida peaches for the most part will only be 2 inch to 2 ¼" in size. Georgia-South Carolina expected to start by May 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Ugli/Unique Fruit:**

Ugli fruit is available with product coming in from Jamaica but we are starting to wind down for the season.

### **Athena Melons:**

Florida is harvesting in light supplies. Current sizing available is 150-160ct. Markets are firm. Most of south Florida expected to start late this week. Expect small sizing to start. The first week of May supplies will increase for volume orders.

### **Personal Melons:**

We are loading now offshore product from Florida and Texas. The melons loading in Texas are from Mexico and the melons from Florida are offshore and a few locally grown. Markets are steady. Quality is good.

### **Watermelon:**

Markets are weaker. Mexico and Florida are the main areas we are pulling from. Quality is good. Texas expected to start by May 10-12<sup>th</sup>.

## **Central Import Vegetable Commodities:**

### **Asparagus:**

The Import volume from Peru is in light supply and the pricing follows along with the domestic market. The asparagus market pricing is very strong due to Easter demand with lighter overall volume. Most of the Peruvian product is arriving in 11# cartons but there are a few 28 # cartons if special ordered in advance. For additional sales don't forget the other asparagus items available to purchase; asparagus tips, microwavable packaging, grilling asparagus and white asparagus.



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**Colored Bell Peppers:**

The colored pepper market remains in very light supply at high pricing – the market is expected to remain this way through April. The Mexico season is drawing to an end and the new growing areas of Canada and Holland are just getting started. Their volume is light.

**Hot House Tomatoes:**

We are shipping mostly new crop Canadian beefsteak tomatoes with light volume still crossing from Mexico – supplies are light and pricing remains strong. Look for better volume from Canada in May.

**Seedless Cucumbers:**

Supplies continue to be a combination of product from Mexico, Canada and the U.S. Pricing remains strong due to Easter demand and light supplies. Mini cukes are also available in light supply.

**Specialty Hydroponic Vegetables:**

Enhance your tomato category by adding variety items include strawberry tomatoes, yellow tomatoes on the vine, orange tomatoes on the vine, cherry tomatoes on the vine, Spendido tomatoes, Compari tomatoes, yellow cherry tomatoes, Gemini tomatoes, Heirloom tomatoes, on-the-vine Roma tomatoes, Zebra tomatoes, D'vine tomatoes, Fusion tomatoes, Zima tomatoes and baby bell peppers, mini sweet peppers and baby eggplant.

**Tomatoes on the Vine:**

We are now shipping mostly Canadian new crops TOVs and there is still light supplies crossing from Mexico. Pricing has gotten stronger as supplies lightened and demand increased for the Holiday business. Look for pricing to be attractive for ads in May, make your plans now.

**Rhubarb:**

Holland grown hot house rhubarb is now available in 13.2 pound bulk cartons. Pricing reflects the cost of air transportation from Holland.

**Central Import Fruit Commodities:**

**Chilean Apples:**

Treat your customers to the taste of new crop apples.

**Royal Gala:**

We now have good supplies of Royal Gala apples arriving from Chile. They are mostly in tray pack cartons of XF or Premium grades and there are some 12/3# poly bags also being offered.

**Granny Smith:**

Light supplies are just beginning to arrive from Chile. Arrivals are mostly tray pack cartons- look for volume to increase by late April– there will also be 12/3# bags

**Braeburn:**

The first of the season Chilean Braeburn apples are set to arrive in early May into Philadelphia. Supplies will be light for the first couple of weeks.

**Jonagolds:**

Last season these apples were some of the best eating apples. They start arriving in May.

**Crips Pink:**

They will start arriving by mid May, good volume is expected.



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### **New Zealand Apples:**

#### **Royal Gala:**

The New Zealand apple season has begun. The first of the season Royal Galas started shipping on Monday 4/18. The quality is excellent.

Other New Zealand varieties start dates:

**Braeburn** - Mid May

**Jazz** - Mid May

**Granny Smith** – End of May

**Fuji** – fist of June

**Pink Lady**- Mid June

**Southern Rose and Pacific Rose** – Nothing scheduled to arrive from NZ this season.

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#### **Avocados:**

Import Hass avocado offerings are mostly from Mexico with supplemental volume from the Dominican Republic. Pricing remain very strong due to light crossing volume from Mexico.

### **Berries:**

#### **Blueberries:**

We have now switched to shipping Florida grown blues. Harvest volume in Florida is very steady now that we are into the peak production weeks. They are packing both 4.4 oz and 6 oz. clamshells. The Georgia season will get going right around the first of May and North Carolina hopes to get started for Memorial Day business which is the target date for the pint season to begin.

#### **Blackberries:**

Mexican blackberries crossings continue to be below projections and with many ads in place for the Holiday the demand is exceeding supplies again. Importers are expecting volume to continue to be lighter than normal for the remainder of the Mexican season which will continue through May. The standard pack is 6 oz with 12 oz clamshells also being packed. Looking ahead – the Domestic blackberry season will begin in Georgia in late May.

#### **Raspberries:**

Chilean raspberries and arrivals are now becoming sporadic here at the end of the season. They are being flown into Miami. The standard pack is 6 oz. clamshells.

### **Jamaican Citrus:**

#### **Ugli Fruit:**

Ugly fruit are a combination of tangerine and grapefruit and have excellent flavor. Good supplies continue to be available of the 14 through 32 counts; the season will run through the third week of May.

### **Australian Citrus:**

Shipping off the West - projected volume and start dates:

**Fallglos** – June - 24,000 ctns

**Navels** – July – Mid October – 900,000 ctns with sizes peaking on medium Navels

**Daisies**– July – August – 121,000 ctns

**Minneolas** – Late July – Sept – 166,000 ctns

**Cara Cara** – Aug – Mid Sept – 14,400 ctns

**Ellendales** – Late August – Mid Oct – 20,000 ctns

**Blood oranges** – Mid Sept – Oct – 18,000 ctns

**Clementines** – June 2, 400 3 lb bags



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**Afourers** – Start when clementines finish, 12,000 3 lb bags

**Chilean Citrus:**

Shipping off the East and West Coast – varieties, start dates and peak timing:

**Clementines** – Starting late May and the season will run through August - peak 7/12 thru /13

**Navels** – Starting in July, running through September- peak 8/9 thru 9/17

**Lemons** – Start in June, running through August

**Mandarins** – Starting in late August, running through October- peak 9/15 – 10/5

**Peruvian Citrus:**

Shipping off the East Coast:

**Satsumas** - Scheduled to arrive in mid May; due to how tender the skin is on this variety, we have had numerous condition issues on arrival in the past. It is suggested to by-pass this variety and wait for the start of the Minneola season.

**Minneolas** - The season starts in mid June and lasts until mid September and August is the peak month. They are packed in 22# cartons. The PLU is 4383 on the bulk fruit and 3# bags are also offered.

**Navels** - Peru has a small navel deal starts a couple of weeks earlier than Chile in mid-June. There have been some issues with this item in the past including oblong shape, light color and eating quality.

**South African Citrus:**

Shipping off the Easy Coast – varieties – start dates and peak timing:

**Cara Cara** – Pink navels- starting in late July, the season will run through August. Light supplies

**Clementines** – starting in June and the season will run through September- peak 7/6 thru 8/12

**Grapefruit** – starting in June and the season will run in July- dark red varieties

**Mandarins** – Starting in mid August, running through mid October- peak in September

**Navels**– Start late June, running through September- peak 7/20 thru 9/12

**Minneolas** – Starting in late July, running through mid September- peak 8/1 thru 8/31

**Midnight Seedless Oranges** – Starting in mid September, running through October – peak all of October

**Chilean Stone Fruit:**

**Plums:**

Chilean plums will remain available through April. The red plum varieties will now start disappearing and it will be a black plum deal for the rest of the season – mostly Angelinos.

**Grapes:**

The marketing order for Chilean seedless grapes was April 10<sup>th</sup>. What we have in the country now for Thompson seedless will be what we have to work with for the rest of the season. Thompson prices are increasing at a very fast rate. As for Crimson seedless, there will be less volume from Chile this season due to rains during the growing season, pricing is stronger and the season will be shorter than we originally expected.

**Green Seedless:**

Due to less volume arriving at the end of this season and the fruit condition being average at best we will see a quick finish to the Chilean Thompson deal with high than normal pricing. The market has already begun to move up. Depending on the importer the season will be finishing late April – early May.

**Red Seedless:**

The market pricing will now strengthen due to heavy demand caused by a lot of ad commitments on the books the next couple of weeks. The season will continue through mid May. We won't see the low pricing we enjoyed last May.



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**Black Seedless:**

Chilean Black Seedless grapes are in light supply at steady pricing– the season will continue through April.

**Red Globes:**

Red Globe grape supplies are returning to normal with a stable market. The season will continue through May.

**Kiwi:**

We are now shipping Chilean grown kiwi. The volume from Chile will be increasing on a weekly basis with peak arrival volume in early May. All sizes are available. Don't forget about green kiwi package options of bags and clamshells to increase your kiwi sales. The New Zealand season will begin mid to late May.

**Melons:**

**Cantaloupe:**

Lope arrival volume is heavy at this time. The weather in the tropics has been warm so fruit has been coming on sooner than scheduled. The melon sizing continues to run large – plenty of 9s with even 6 count available. The major shippers are looking for the market to firm up after the Easter Holiday but trucking has been an issue in Florida. The season will continue through the second week of May.

**Honeydew:**

We continue to have steady supplies of off-shore honeydew. Sizing ranges from 4 to 8 count and is heavy to the larger sizes. Looking ahead the Mexican season will start up again later this month with Texas dews coming on in mid-May.

**Variety Melons:**

New to the scene and now available is the sweet and flavorful Melorange melon. The Melorange is a smaller Italian type heirloom cantaloupe with sugar brix average 16%. They are packed in a European type tray –net weight 13.2 pounds and the sizing will be mostly 5 and 6 count.

**Mangos:**

In general, Tommy Atkins and Hayden variety mangos from Mexico continue to arrive in good volume and quality is excellent. In addition there is also Guatemala and Costa Rican mangos arriving into Miami. Due to Holy Week the volume arriving will be somewhat lighter the week of 4/24 but all and all business will remain normal with the bottom of market coming up. Plan your promotions throughout the summer.

Mexican Ataulfo variety mangos (the champagne mango) continue to be available in good supply. This variety turns from green to yellow as it ripens and is a very sweet smooth eating fruit. Every year Ataulfos become more popular as more and more people become familiar with them. This is a good item to get behind and promote.

**Pears:**

**Asian Pears:**

Mostly what we have arriving from Chile is the brown skin Hosui variety with limited supplies of yellow skin fruit. They are packed in single layer trays with sizing ranging from 10 to 16 counts.

**Bartletts:**

Demand for Argentine Summer Bartletts has been very strong the past couple of weeks and it has cleaned up all the remaining supplies- consider them done for the season. We will have light volume of Argentine Winter Bartletts at the end of the month.

**Packums:**

We are now seeing the first of the Packum pears starting to arrive. Now is the time to transition from Bartlett to the Packum variety.



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**Taylor's Gold:**

The first of the season Taylor's Gold pears are grown in New Zealand, They are packed in 15.4 pound cartons. They are a fully russeted with a creamy white flesh. They are extremely juicy with melting texture, delicately perfumed.

**Other Pears:**

D'Anjou, Comice, Red D'Anjou and Abate Fetal pears are also available.

**Pomegranates:**

Chilean grown pomegranates will be an 8 week season beginning the 1<sup>st</sup> week of May. They will all be the Wonderful variety: 35% XF and 65% Fancy grades packed in single layer cartons (8.8# net) with sizing ranging from 5 through 18 counts— peaking on 8, 10 & 12ct.

**Pineapples:**

Gold pineapples remain in excellent supply and we had plenty of products for Easter promotions. They look to remain in good supply through June.

**Persimmons:**

Chilean fuyu variety persimmons will begin arriving by air in mid May followed by boat arrivals at the end of the month. They are packed in single layer tray pack cartons.

**Quince:**

Chilean pineapple quinces will be available in light supply around the end of April. They are packed in single layer tray pack cartons and shipping out of Miami FL.

**West Coast Fruit Commodities:**

**Avocados:**

Mexico: Mexico will be the predominant supplier as we head into the holiday pull. The Mexican Hass is showing late season, high –oil maturity and the eating quality is excellent.

California: California growers are still trying to maximize the size on the tree so they are not eager to begin harvesting their 2011 crop. The fruit is very good, high in maturity levels but smaller in size.

**Navel:**

Start pulling Late Lanes – fruit will be firmer versus the regular season Navels. There will be great supplies across the board on all sizes. If your using regular navels there will be some soft & puff throughout the pack. The peak size continues to be 88ct followed by 72/113ct.

**Lemons:**

Good supplies continue on lemons---75/95ct is the peak sizes right now and quality continues to be excellent.

**Clementines:**

The "Cuties" from Sun Pacific are in good supplies. (Good supplies with independent shippers as well). We are in the Murcot variety. Quality is excellent and they are eating very well.

**Specialty Citrus:**

Cara Cara's & Minneola's will be available for another 2 weeks however still have excellent supplies right now. Eating quality continues to be outstanding. Minneola's are peaking on 100/125ct with some 64/80ct available.

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Golden Nuggets (Mandarin from SK) will have supplies through April into May. They are peaking on Mammoth & Colossal.



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**Melons:**

Cantaloupes and honeydews are projected to start in Yuma around May 10<sup>th</sup> with shipments no later than May 15<sup>th</sup>. Variety melons will start shipping around May 29<sup>th</sup>. More info to follow on quality, volume, sizes once they get going.

**Tree Fruit:**

Early tree fruit will be getting started in the next week or two---the growing area is Arvin, Bakersfield and Kettleman City. White peach (snow angel) will start May 5<sup>th</sup>. Popycot Apricot will start the week of May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Yellow Peaches (super rich and spring treat) will start the week of May 11<sup>th</sup>. Yellow Nectarine (honey may) will start the week of May 18<sup>th</sup>. Reedley will start towards the end of May and that is when you will see better quality and better eating fruit.

**Grapes:**

Mexico will start grapes the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May---Green Grapes (Perlettes) and Red Grapes (Flames) will start around May 9<sup>th</sup> and Black Grapes (summer royal) will start May 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Cherries:**

Some shippers are hoping to start packing on April 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> but it will be VERY light---The state of CA will be lucky to have 10,000 boxes packed on May 2<sup>nd</sup> as it stands right now. Cool weather this week and last week has not helped the crops start time but only continues to push it back. We should see some quantity around May 2<sup>nd</sup> but light supplies and very high market---(around 100.00). Peak size looks to be 10.5 row. The crop is definitely cleaner than last year---so we are anticipating better pack outs.

**Nogales:**

There are great supplies on Seedless & Mini Watermelons with supplies increasing on Seeded Watermelons. They are now packing Honeydews & Cantaloupes will start next week. Good supplies on yellow, green & grey squash, cucumbers is starting with decent supplies which should increase each week moving forward. There will be light but steady supplies over the next 4 weeks on all Green Peppers, Colored Peppers, Eggplant and Tomatoes. The overall quality for what is being shipped has been good.

**West Coast Vegetable Commodities:**

**Lettuce:** Good supplies of lettuce in Salinas. Good quality available in Salinas with an average amount of thirties. Weights are in the low 40's.

**Broccoli:**

The broccoli supplies out of Salinas have good volume. The quality is very nice with many first and second cuttings being harvested.

**Cauliflower:**

Supplies out of Salinas have been good. The quality is good.

**Asparagus:**

Salinas and Stockton has steady volume. The quality has been nice.

**Celery:**

Oxnard has steady supplies. Most shippers are dealing with seeders that will affect the yield and numbers. The color, weights and appearance look great.

**Leaf Lettuces:**

The supplies will be fair this week. As shippers move into Salinas, we should start to see better quality. Green Leaf – Green leaf weights are 20-22lbs.  
Red Leaf – The red leaf will be 22- 24lbs with 2 to 4 leaves showing clear blister.



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Butter Lettuce – Showing slight fringe burn with weights around 14 to 15lbs.

Romaine – Showing light fringe burn. The length is 11-12 inches. Weights are averaging 37 to 38 lbs.

**Artichokes:**

The domestic artichokes are coming out of Santa Maria, Salinas and Castroville area. The harvest is light due to cool temperatures. The sizing is small with 18ct artichokes very scarce.

**Brussel Sprouts:**

Supplies on the sprouts are light. The product out of Mexico has decreased due to weather related issues. Product is sold out and prorated.

**Green Onions:**

The Green Onions have good supplies. The quality is showing nice dark green tops, with minimal shanks.

**Cilantro:**

The cilantro has good availability and quality.

**Onions:**

Red and Yellow onions will start new crop in about 2 weeks. The yellows will come off first and then the reds.

**Potatoes:**

The supplies are tight on all white and yellow potatoes. The white potato harvest out of the Imperial Valley will see a 4-5 day gap. The yellow and reds out of the Imperial Valley are having a hard time getting started. The harvests are hit and miss on both colors.

**Radish:**

The radishes in Mexico have steady supplies and good quality.

**West Coast Berries:**

**Strawberries:**

**California Orange County/Oxnard** – Look for Orange County supplies to start falling off in size and volume in the next 2 weeks. Oxnard is past its first big peak but still has strong fruit and counts of 18 to 20 in size.

**Santa Maria** – This area has started a daily increase as fruit size is large. The cool weather is slowing the big production but they are waiting to pop.

**Salinas/Watsonville** – We are seeing better production starting in the Watsonville and Salinas area with good volume, size and color. The Albion's are the big variety in the north.

**Blackberries:**

The market is still somewhat steady as Mexico volume is up and down with cold and warm weather. Look for increased volume in the next 10 days as the next plant cycle kicks in.

**Raspberries:**

The supplies are slowly increasing as Oxnard plants start producing more fruit and supplies from Mexico are steady. We will see some prorates but less and less for the next 10 days. The color has been light due to the overcast cool days.

**Blueberries:**

The blueberries market will start to come down as Florida begins to fill the pipelines and California fruit kicking in. The Chilean fruit is still coming in but the quality is poor.



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### **Northwest Vegetable Commodities:**

#### **Asparagus:**

Northwest asparagus will be delayed due to cool weather. The start date is around the first week of May.

#### **Onions:**

Yellow, Red and White Spanish onions are showing good storage conditions. Several skins and high moisture content are keeping them fresh.

#### **Potatoes:**

Washington has good supplies on russet norcada and varietal potatoes. The condition is good with minimal sprouting.

### **Northwest Fruit Commodities:**

#### **Apples:**

Condition on apples is very good with some bruising still showing up on Golden's and Fujis. There are deals on large sizes 56/64. Pressure and brix are at good levels with some bruising on the Golden's and Fuji's due to age. Bloom time for all tree crops is just approaching. Some damage from the cold snaps last winter is expected, but it is too soon to tell anything yet. More information to follow as it comes available.

#### **Pears:**

We have good supplies of Anjou's and red pears we REQUIRE switching everything to high elevation pears. Should have good supplies of red pears for another 4 weeks – we should have good supplies of Anjou's thru May.