



Specialty PRODUCE REPORT

Feature Items

Early December 2010



Kumquats

Tiny, entirely edible kumquats look like miniature, oval oranges. They are approximately one-to-two inches in size and add tart citrus-like contrast to foods such as cheesecakes, green salads, and roasted poultry. Kumquats make elegant garnishes, especially when the leaves and branches are attached. Marmalade is another ideal application. Kumquats are available from November to July and are typically shipped in 5- and 10-pound boxes.



Sunchokes

Sunchokes, also known as Jerusalem artichokes, are light brown tubers with rough, bumpy skin. Their inner flesh is ivory-colored and crisp (much like water chestnuts) and their flavor is similar to artichoke hearts or salsify. Make sure to soak peeled and/or sliced sunchokes in lemon juice or vinegar to prevent oxidation (brown spots). They are compatible with Mediterranean ingredients such as tomatoes, basil, and eggplant. Sunchokes are shipped year-round (with peak season in the fall and winter months) in 5- and 10-pound packs.



Tejocote

Also called Mexican Hawthornes, tejocotes are small, round, crab apple-type fruits with orange skins and hard brown seeds. These sweet-and-sour fruits can be eaten either raw or cooked, but are best known in Christmas and New Year's punches and cocktails. Tejocotes are popular in candies, paletas (frozen fruit pops), and jams and can also be paired with cinnamon, citrus, and mole dishes. Available from November to January, tejocotes are packed in 10-pound boxes.

Calendar

Updates

December

- 2: First Day of Hanukkah
- 25: Christmas Day
- 26: Boxing Day (Canada)
First Day of Kwanzaa
- 31: New Year's Eve

January

- 1: New Year's Day
- 17: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

In Season*

Buddha's hand (by the ct.), fingerling potatoes (10-, 20-, and 50-lb. boxes), salsify (10-lb. pack), Satsuma Mandarin oranges (28-lb. box), Castelfranco radicchio (12-ct. pack), cranberries (24/12-oz. box), chestnuts (5- and 25-lb. packs), feijoas (33- to 36-ct. boxes), Meyer lemons (10-lb. pack), yuzu (10-lb. box), pomegranates (20- to 40-ct. packs), crab apples (10-lb. boxes), Brussels sprout stalks (9-ct. pack), puntarella (6-ct. box), pummelos (6-, 8-, 10-, and 14-ct. packs), specialty mushrooms—Matsutake, Porcini, Hedgehog, Fried Chicken, Yellow Foot, Blue Foot (1-lb. boxes), Honeycrisp apples (100-ct. pack), Pippin apples (72- to 88-ct. boxes), spring garlic (1-lb. pack), Cara Cara oranges (40-lb. box), gold kiwifruit (1-layer pack), cocktail grapefruit (36- to 64-ct. boxes), and blood oranges (10-lb. pack).

Seasons Ended

Red and gold tamarillos (1-layer box).

Tight Stocks

French beans (5- and 10-lb. packs), baby squash (5- and 10-lb. boxes), black radishes (5-, 10-, and 25-lb. packs), red endive (10-lb. box), red and gold teardrop tomatoes (12-ct. packs), hot-house rhubarb (13-lb. box), gobo root (10-lb. pack), passion fruit (1-layer box), Kennebec potatoes (50-lb. pack), purple potatoes (10- and 50-lb. boxes), Thai chiles (5-, 10-, and 30-lb. packs), cactus pears (10- and 40-lb. boxes), baby corn (100-ct. pack), okra (16-lb. box), baby cauliflower (24-ct. pack), and figs (1-layer box).

On The Horizon

Black-eyed peas (12/11-oz. packs), gooseberries (12-ct. half-pints), purple Pepino melons (12-ct. pack), mangosteens (5-lb. box), Seville oranges (35-lb. pack), cherimoya (10-lb. box), eight-ball squash (22-lb. pack), and Sharon fruit (1-layer box).

Information courtesy of MCL Fresh, Inc., Markon's exclusive partner for specialty produce.



* Please check with your sales representative for lead times