



## Get Ready For Spring!

### **In Like a Lion, Out Like a Lamb**

Erratic weather is always a cause for concern in the produce industry. But once the Spring weather conquers the winter frost and snow, the markets will stabilize and the warm weather will provide some relief to growers and in effect causing relief from high prices.

Arugula crops are in a transition right now and as a result are not the best quality. Mexican fields are exhausted and the domestic Californian crops are tender and still very susceptible to the current unstable weather conditions. March is notorious for producing poor quality Arugula with poor shelf life, but as the weather slowly warms up and improves so will the quality and shelf life of Arugula.

Unlike Arugula, Grapefruit is at a peak right now. The coloring will shift from the winter deep red to a lighter pink color and the sweetness should be at a season high. The flavor and juice content are expected to be excellent. Also, keep a look out for "sheep nose" Grapefruit. Being late in the season, some of the fruit tend to stay on the trees a little longer and produce this more elongated shape.

Red Potatoes are in low supply right now and after the high demand period of Irish inspired St. Patrick's Day cuisine, the supply is even tighter. Growers are facing some other conditions which are causing the prices of Red Potatoes to jump up. Due to heavy rain in Southern Florida and freeze damage in Texas, the limited supplies are mostly coming from the fields in Washington and North Dakota. Growers in these areas are running out of supplies and some will be out of their supplies within two weeks. In mid-April new crops from Arizona and California will begin to materialize, which will cause some relief. But for now, the prices are expected to remain high.

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