

AUGUST 28, 2026

LIPMANFAMILYFARMS.COM

ON THE HORIZON

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industry updates

CROP & MARKET

INDUSTRY INFO





MARKET UPDATES

ROMA TOMATOES

Roma tomato availability is snug in the East this week. In addition to Lipman's Tennessee program, several smaller regional deals are in production, but nearly all growing areas have been hit with a combination of rain and high temperatures—conditions that tomatoes generally do not tolerate well. These weather challenges are reducing packouts as more fruit is graded out for quality issues, tightening the volume of marketable product. In the West, California is harvesting at a steady pace, with a strong portion of the crop falling into the XL size range. Quality is generally sound, though some cosmetic gold flecking is still present; however, this issue has improved significantly over the past few weeks. Both Baja and Central Mexico continue to support overall roma supplies. Baja is now past its summer production peak, but should hold relatively steady with light to moderate volumes for the next few weeks. Central Mexico's output is currently stable, but growers are anticipating a reduction in volume during the latter half of September, which could further tighten the market as we move into fall.

ORGANIC ROMA TOMATOES

Organic roma tomato supplies are in a good position this week, with adequate volumes available between Central Mexico and Baja. Overall quality is solid, supported by consistent sizing and good color, though there have been a few isolated concerns around firmness on some lots. These issues remain limited, and most fruit is performing well on arrival and through normal shelf life expectations. Both growing regions are forecast to continue harvesting into October, which provides a positive supply outlook for the intermediate term.

ROUND TOMATOES

Mature green slicer tomato supplies are limited in the East this week, as prolonged summer heat has pushed much of the crop into vine-ripe color rather than holding at mature green. Lipman is currently harvesting light volumes in Tennessee and expects to begin Fall plantings in Virginia within the next 10–14 days, which should help improve availability as we move into October. Quality on Eastern fruit has been challenged by a combination of rain and high temperatures, resulting in lower packout yields as more tomatoes are being graded out during packing and sorting. In the West, supply conditions are more favorable. Central Mexico is now seeing the anticipated volume increases, positioning that region to provide consistent shipments through September. Baja is contributing light to moderate volumes, with a higher proportion of medium and smaller sizes, but overall quality is strong. California farms remain an important part of the round tomato supply mix, offering steady volume with sizing skewing larger, though a full size range is available. Quality out of California is generally good, with only occasional concerns about gold flecking being reported on some lots.

ORGANIC GRAPE TOMATOES

Organic grape tomato supplies have tightened slightly this week, with primary volume coming from Baja and Central Mexico. Despite the lighter supply, current availability is still covering demand, and no major gaps are anticipated in the near term. Quality has been good overall, with fruit showing strong color, firmness, and flavor, and it is traveling well to East Coast destinations. Baja has just started harvesting from new fields, which should help support and potentially improve supplies going forward, provided growing conditions remain favorable.



MARKET UPDATES

GRAPE TOMATOES

Eastern grape tomato volumes are moderate this week as Virginia and various local and regional programs continue to harvest. Quality is variable by area, largely depending on recent heat and rainfall, and these weather-related challenges are leading to lower packout yields and slightly lighter effective supply. New fall crops in Virginia are set to begin in about 10 days and should bring some improvement in both quality and consistency. In the West, grape tomato supplies are running light to moderate. Central Mexico has been a steady supplier and is anticipating a volume increase in 10–14 days as new plantings come into production. Baja has seen lighter volumes through much of August, but one growing area has recently started new fields, and supplies are expected to gradually strengthen over the next few weeks. Overall, availability is workable, with better conditions likely as these new crops ramp up.

YELLOW AND ZUCCHINI SQUASH

Yellow and zucchini squash availability remains snug in the East this week, as some growing areas—particularly Michigan and New Jersey—have been working through gaps between plantings and others have begun winding down for the season. Product is still available in light volumes across the region, with Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio all contributing to supply, but overall availability is tighter than normal. As is typically the case, yellow squash is more limited than zucchini. On a positive note, Lipman's Eastern North Carolina program is set to start new-crop harvests this week, which should help relieve some of the pressure on Eastern supply. In the West, volumes are also on the lighter side. Santa Maria is expected to remain in reduced production for the balance of the season, as many growers opted not to replant a fall crop following this summer's softer markets. As a result, Western availability will likely stay constrained until late September or early October, when Sonora returns to production and begins to rebuild overall supply.

CHILI PEPPERS

Chili pepper availability remains mixed by variety and region. In the East, local production from Michigan, Ohio and surrounding areas is supporting most items, but serranos remain notably tight and habaneros are still limited in some programs. Hot weather continues to create isolated quality pressure, although most fresh lots are packing well. In the West, jalapeños, Anaheims, serranos, tomatillos and other varieties are available from California and Mexico, with better overall coverage than the East on several items. Western supply should continue to improve as additional Mexican production develops.

MINI SWEET PEPPERS

Mini sweet pepper supplies are a bit more snug this week as Baja's numbers have dropped off. Product continues to come from Mexico, California, Canada and Washington, providing multiple sourcing options. Washington is working through some quality concerns which provides challenges in meeting spec requirements, but expects to see fruit clean up as they get further into the current field.

ENGLISH CUCUMBERS

English cucumber supplies are mixed this week, with regional differences shaping overall availability. Eastern Canada continues to offer decent volumes despite working through crop rotations, and quality there has been holding at acceptable levels. In contrast, some growers in Western Canada are in a gap after pausing harvests from current plantings due to quality and disease prevention concerns, tightening supply from that region in the short term. Meanwhile, Mexico is contributing light to moderate volumes, with fair to good quality being reported. Taken together, overall supply is workable, but one may need flexibility on origin and loading points while Western Canada transitions into its next harvest cycle.

LIPMAN FAMILY FARMS ACQUIRES FRESH-CUT OPERATOR IN PHOENIX, STRENGTHENING ITS NATIONAL FOOTPRINT IN FRESH-CUT SOLUTIONS

THEPRODUCENEWS.COM

August 26, 2026



Lipman Family Farms, one of North America's leading fresh produce suppliers, has acquired Farm Fresh, a fresh-cut fruit and vegetable operation in Phoenix.

Farm Fresh, a leading fresh-cut player in Phoenix, is located a few miles from Lipman's repack operation in Glendale. The two facilities will complement Lipman's service in a market where coverage and capabilities are growing.

This is the second western Lipman acquisition in recent months, following Inland Premium Packers in Riverside, California. Lipman's footprint continues to grow nationally, with a focus on surety of supply and solutions for its partners.

The Farm Fresh facility prepares a variety of ready-to-eat produce, providing customized solutions for customers looking for a lineup of convenient, food-safe and freshly cut produce.

As Lipman expands its footprint in the fresh-cut category, the company also expands its team's expertise as fresh produce continues to evolve.

"Investing in fresh-cuts in the Arizona region emphasizes our goal of supplying fresh produce solutions that are accessible to all," said Elyse Lipman, CEO of Lipman Family Farms. "As we expand, this also means ensuring we have the right people in the right places that we can count on. Through Farm Fresh, we acquired experienced professionals who know fresh-cut and produce distribution. They bring a level of knowledge and customer service that we are thrilled to join forces with."

[READ MORE HERE](#)

IFPA NAMES 2027 BOARD SLATE TO BE INSTALLED AT OCTOBER SHOW

[THESHELBYREPORT.COM](https://theshelbyreport.com)

AUGUST 18, 2026

The International Fresh Produce Association has announced the slate of new officers and directors for its 2027 board of directors. The volunteer leaders will be confirmed by a ballot shared with membership and begin their board service at the 2026 Global Fresh Produce & Floral Show, Oct. 14-16 in Orlando, Florida.

The board is guided by the executive committee, which will be led in 2027 by current Chair-Elect Elyse Lipman, CEO of Lipman Family Farms. Current Board Chair Patrick Vizzone, founder and managing partner of AgroNovare, will assume the role of immediate past board chair. During the show, Lipman and Vizzone will share reflections on year two of IFPA's strategic plan, highlighting key milestones reached on behalf of members across the worldwide produce and floral community.

"It is a true honor to step into the role of IFPA Board Chair at a time when our industry's purpose has never been more clear or more important," Lipman said. "Every day, the fresh produce and floral community helps nourish families, bring beauty and joy to people around the world, strengthen economies and advance a more sustainable tomorrow.

"IFPA's mission is to help this extraordinary industry go even further, by removing barriers, elevating our voice through advocacy, sharing the insights that help businesses grow and bringing our global community together around the challenges and opportunities we share," she added.



[READ MORE HERE](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SEPTEMBER 9 - 12

SEPC SOUTHERN INNOVATIONS

MUSIC CITY CENTER

NASHVILLE, TN

COME VISIT US AT BOOTH 614!

<https://seproducecouncil.com/events-networking/southern-innovations/>

OCTOBER 15 - 17

IFPA GLOBAL PRODUCE & FLORAL SHOW

ORANGE COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER

ORLANDO, FL

COME VISIT US AT BOOTH 1873!

<https://www.freshproduce.com/events/the-global-produce-and-floral-show/>



TOMATO SNAPSHOT

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SEASON PUTS A SPOTLIGHT ON HOW FAMILIES EAT DURING THE WEEK. EATING WELL IS EASIER WHEN FRESH PRODUCE FITS INTO YOUR EVERYDAY ROUTINE.

THAT IS WHERE WE THINK ABOUT VEGETABLES AS EVERYDAY NUTRITION RATHER THAN A SPECIAL OCCASION. FAMILIAR PRODUCE LIKE TOMATOES, CHERRY TOMATOES, AND PEPPERS IS EASY TO WORK INTO A LUNCHBOX OR A WEEKNIGHT DINNER, WHICH IS WHAT MAKES IT STICK. MAKING EVERYDAY PRODUCE EASY TO REACH FOR IS ONE OF THE MOST PRACTICAL WAYS TO SUPPORT FAMILY HEALTH OVER TIME.

