



April is here!!! The warm weather has arrived and the days are longer. This month we celebrate Tax Day, Administrative Professional's Day and Take Your Children to Work Day. About this time, we start looking for new and exciting places to go for vacation. The Produce Item of the Month for April is Asparagus. Read on for some interesting facts on Asparagus and a great recipe for the summer months. Happy Easter to everyone !!!!!



Arbor Day is coming.... Today the most common date for the state observance is the last Friday in April, and several U.S. presidents have proclaimed a national Arbor Day on that date. Arbor Day has now spread beyond the United States and is observed in many countries of the world. The idea for Arbor Day originally came from Nebraska.

May's Upcoming Events

- Cinco De Mayo
- Mother's Day
- Armed Forces Day
- Memorial Day



DeCA Customers Are Enjoying National Promotions

Military Media Circulars -

Apr 10 - Apr 23 - Spring Vegetables (yellow and Green Squash, corn, cucumbers, Green Bell Peppers and Green Beans)

Apr 24 - May 7 - Vidalia Onions

May 8 - May 28 - South American Fresh Apples and Pears

Promotions -

Feb 15 - April 30 - USA Pear Display Contest

April 1 - 30 - NY Apple Display and Cancer Research (Eastern & Midwest Regions)

Featured Item of the Month -



Asparagus

When buying asparagus, buy firm, straight, uniformly sized spears with closed, compact tips. The stalks should be crisp, not wilted. You should avoid asparagus with wilted appearance or spreading tips. When selecting asparagus, asparagus should be fresh and firm with compact tips. Spears should be straight and round, and snap easily when bent. Contrary to popular belief, spears with larger diameters are just as tender as slender spears. Asparagus is best enjoyed immediately after purchasing. Asparagus may be stored for longer periods of time simply by placing bundled stalks upright in a bowl or dish with an inch of water (or just enough to keep the stalks moist). Another method is to wrap the cut ends in a moist paper towel. Cover the towel with plastic and refrigerate. Asparagus is low calorie, saturated fat free, sodium free, cholesterol free, high in folate. They are a good Source of the antioxidant Vitamin A and Vitamin C.

Thought for the Month

"We either make ourselves miserable or we make ourselves strong. The amount of work is the same". - Carlos Casteneda, author and philosopher.





MUST READ - WHAT'S HOT - WHAT'S NOT!!!

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUPPLY</u>	<u>QUALITY</u>	<u>MARKET</u>	<u>STATE</u>
Beans, Snap and Pole Beans	Fair	Good	Higher	FL
Cabbage, Green and Red	Good	Fair	Steady	GA
Cucumbers, Caribbean Super Selects	Good	Good	Higher	FL
Corn, Yellow, White, Bicolor	Good	Good	Steady	FL
Onions, Yellow jumbos, red jumbos	Fair	Good	Higher	TX
Green Bell Peppers	Good	Good	Lower	FL
Potatoes, Baking	Good	Good	Steady	CO
Round White Potatoes	Good	Good	Steady	MN
New Crop Reds	Good	Excellent	Steady	FL
Sweet Potatoes	Good	Good	Unchanged	NC
Sweet Potatoes	Limited	Fair	Unchanged	LA
Radishes	Good	Good	Higher	FL
Squash, Zucchini, yellow	Fair	Fair	Steady	FL
Tomatoes	Good	Good	Steady	FL
Honey Tangerines	Good	Good	Unchanged	FL
Red grapefruit	Good	Good	Steady	FL
Valencia oranges	Excellent	Excellent	Steady	FL
Apples, Red and Gold delish	Good	Good	Steady	VA/NY
MacIntosh Apples	Fair	Fair	Steady	VA/NY
Cantaloupes	Good	Good	Lower	Import
Honeydews	Good	Good	Steady	Import
Grapes White/Red/Black Seedless	Good	Good	Steady	Chilean
Nectarines, Peaches	Limited	Fair	Steady	Chilean
Plums Angelino 50s	Good	Good	Steady	Chilean
Asparagus	Good	Good	Strong	CA
Artichokes	Good	Good	Strong	CA
Broccoli Crowns	Good	Good to exc	Steady	CA
Cauliflower	Good	Exc to good	Strong	CA
Celery and Celery Hearts	Good	Good	Steady	CA
Iceberg Lettuce	Good	Good	Strong	CA
Strawberries	Good	Good to exc		CA
Apples, Red/Gold Delish, Fuji	Plenty	Good to exc		WA
Apples, Granny Smith, Pink Lady, Braeburn	Very Limited	Good to exc		WA
Apples, Royal Galas, Jonagold	Good	Excellent		WA
Apples, Cameo, Red Rome	Plenty	Excellent		WA
Hot House Rhubarb	Limited	Excellent		WA
Pears, D'Anjou, Bosc Golden Russet	Plenty	Good to exc		WA
Pears, Red D'Anjou	Plenty	Good to exc		WA
Healthy Treats	Packed to Order	Excellent		WA
Snack Pack	Packed to Order	Excellent		WA
Pears, Asian Russet	Limited	Exc to good		WA
Grapes, Cantaloupes, Honeydew	Good	Good		Import
California Navels, Lemons, Kiwifruit	Good	Good		CA



DID YOU KNOW ?????

- ★ Due to world events, we felt it best to **reschedule** our **Worldwide Subsistence Customer Conference and Food Show 2003**. The new dates are October 7-8, 2003 at the Atlantic City Convention Center. We will continue to use the Sheraton, Trump Plaza and Tropicana hotels for our lodging accommodations. ACES will hold their food service meetings on October 9-10, 2003.
- ★ Two reps from the **Produce Business Unit** were invited by the USDA Mid-Atlantic Region to attend the **State Directors' Conference** on April 1, in Mt. Laurel, New Jersey. DSCP briefed the attendees on a panel titled "Promoting Fresh Fruits and Vegetables: Department of Defense Initiatives". Currently 8 of the 9 states and territories in the region participate in the DoD Fresh Produce program, and our briefing, and display of a delicious fruit and vegetable tray and literature, was well received. The Mid-Atlantic region uses over \$5.2M in DoD Fair Share allocated money.
- ★ **PBO Philadelphia** welcomed a new Customer - the Southeastern Veterans' Center in Spring Hill, Pennsylvania. The Veteran's Center receives his delivery in 24-hour turnaround and very impressed by the quality of the produce.
- ★ The **Defense Language Institute** located in Monterey, California trains military personnel in languages needed for worldwide operations. There are two dining halls on base. **DSO San Francisco** supplies them fresh fruits and vegetables. They receive three deliveries a week. Last week we received a call asking if they could start getting deliveries five times a week (Monday through Friday). They explained that there were an increased number of soldiers to feed. We called the supplying vendor and they will start daily shipments this week.
- ★ **DSO Tidewater** continued its support of **Operation Enduring Freedom**. This week the shipments that were completed included 19 tri-walls of miscellaneous frozen provisions and 44 tri-walls of salad dressings airlifted to Kuwait.

Please feel free to provide your comments directly to me at
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*Remember, as Kevin Spacey said in his new movie,
Our customers should always be able to say:*



"THE PRODUCE WAS WORTH THE TRIP !!"