



The summer is almost over. Sept is around the corner. Soon fall will begin. With the onset of fall we look forward to shorter and cooler days, back to school for the children, and of course those great fall fruits and vegetables - Squash and Pumpkins to name a few!!! Pumpkin is a warm-season vegetable that can be grown throughout much of the United States. Besides being used as jack-o'-lanterns at Halloween, pumpkins are used to make pumpkin butter, pies, custard, bread, and cookies. Squash are really edible gourds. There are many varieties with a wide range of flavors and textures. Winter squash does not look the same either. Their tough outer shells can be smooth or bumpy, thin or thick and rock hard with a wide array of colors. The most popular varieties of winter squash includes acorn, buttercup, butternut, calabaza, delicata, Hubbard, spaghetti, sweet dumpling, and Turk's turban.



Labor Day Weekend welcomes in September. "Labor Day differs in every essential way from the other holidays of the year in any country," said Samuel Gompers, founder and long time president of the American Federation of Labor. "All other holidays are in a more or less degree connected with conflicts and battles of man's prowess over man, of strife and discord for greed and power, of glories achieved by one nation over another. Labor Day is devoted to no man, living or dead, to no sect, race, or nation." Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity and well-being of our country. It is appropriate, therefore, that we pay tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership -- each and every one of us -- the American worker.



September's Upcoming Events



Labor Day	Back to School	Five a Day Week
Grandparents Day	Air Force Birthday	POW/MIA Recognition Day

DeCA Customers Are Enjoying National Promotions

Oppenheimer

August 1 through August 15 - Enza Apples

August 1 through August 31 - New Zealand Kiwi

Military Media Circular

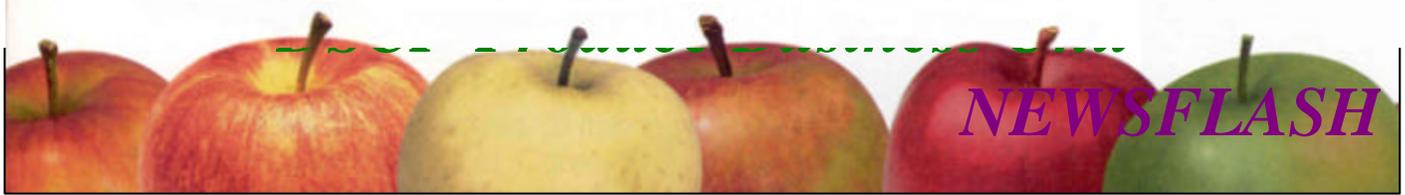
- **DeCA Period 15 Jul 31 through Aug 13** - Calif. Bartlett Pears & Apples
- **DeCA Period 16 - Aug 14 - Aug 27** - Oppenheimer Apples & Kiwi
- **DeCA Period 17 - Aug 28 - Sep 10** - Apples
- **DeCA Period 18 - Sep 11 - Oct 1** - Red Globe Grapes



Featured Item of the Month – Cantaloupe



Cantaloupe (*Cucumis melo* L. var. *reticulatus* Naud.) is often, incorrectly, referred to interchangeably as Muskmelon. This botanical group, however, includes honeydew, crenshaw, Persian, casaba and other 'mixed melons. Cantaloupes are harvested by maturity and not by size. Commercial maturity is ideally at the firm-ripe stage or "3/4 to full-slip" when a clear abscission (slip, separation) from the vine occurs with light pressure. Cantaloupes ripen after harvest but do not increase in sugar content. Cultivars vary in their external color at this stage of maturity and may retain a greenish cast. This skin color typically transitions from gray to dull green when immature, deep uniform green at maturity, and light yellow at full ripeness. A raised and well-rounded netting on the fruit surface is another indicator of proper commercial maturity. Well-shaped nearly spherical and uniform in appearance. Smooth, stem end with no adhering peduncle (stem-attachment) which suggests premature harvest.



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

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUPPLY</u>	<u>QUALITY</u>	<u>MARKET</u>	<u>STATE</u>
Green Beans and pole beans	Fair	Good	Lower	NC/NY
Cabbage, Green	Good	Fair	Steady	NY
Cucumbers, Caribbean Super Selects	Good	Good	Lower	NY/NC
Corn, Yellow, White, Bicolor	Good	Good	Steady	NY
Onions, Yellow jumbos, red jumbos	Good	Good	Steady	NM
Onions, 50# yellow, 25# red	Good	Good	Higher	COL
Green Bell Peppers	Good	Good	Lower	NC
Potatoes, Baking	Good	Good	Steady	KS, IO, WI
White potatoes	Good	Good	Lower	DE, VA
Sweet Potatoes	Limited	Fair	Higher	NC
Sweet Potatoes	Limited	Fair	Higher	LA
Squash, Zucchini	Good	Good	Lower	VA/NC/SC
Tomatoes	Good	Good	Higher	VA/NC
Watermelons				NC/DE
Grapes, sangria/seedless	Good	Good	Lower	NC/DE
Blueberries	Fair	Good	Higher	MI
Peaches	Good	Good	Lower	NJ/VA
Asparagus	Good	Good	Steady	CA
Artichokes	Good	Good	Steady	CA
Broccoli Crowns	Good	Good to exc	Steady	CA
Cauliflower	Good	Exc to good	Steady	CA
Celery and Celery Hearts	Good	Good	Steady	CA
Iceberg Lettuce	Plentiful	Good to Fair	Steady	CA
Strawberries	Good	Good		CA
Apples, Red/Gold Delish	Plenty	Good to exc		WA
Apples, Granny Smith, Fuji	Very limited	Good to exc		WA
Apples, Braeburn, Royal Galas	Very tight	Good to Exc		WA
Apples, Red Rom/Jonagold	Not Available			WA
Apples, Pink Lady	Plentiful	Excellent		WA
Rhubarb	Winding down	Good to exc		WA
Bartletttes	Goodc	Good to exc		WA
Pears, Gold russet	Very limited	Best avail		CA
Pears, Stark crimson	Good	Good to exc		WA
Pears, Asian	Limited	Best avail		CA
Healthy treats	Packed to order	Excellent		
Snack Pack	Packed to order	Excellent		
Grapes, White, Red, Black	Good	Good		CA
Peaches	Good	Good		CA
Nectarines	Good	Good		CA
Plums, black & red	Good	Good		CA
Cantaloupes	Good	Good		CA
Honeydews	Good	Good		CA
Valencias	Good	Good		CA
Lemons	Good	Good		CA
Kiwifruit	Good	Good		CA



DID YOU KNOW ?????

★ **PMO Wicomico** reports the new school year is about to begin in NC and the counties are gearing up. Buncombe County, NC requested a training session this week. Over 40 school cafeteria managers and several child nutrition personnel attended the training. Proper storage and handling procedures were discussed as well as a demonstration on crisping product. Following the training, a question and answer session was held with door prizes given for the most correct answers.

★ This past week **PBO San Diego**, in cooperation with DeCA, participated in the National Guard Show held in San Diego. It was a great success, and PBO San Diego was the "Hit of the Show". Approximately 800 participants visited the booth on a daily basis (Thursday thru Saturday). Fresh fruits were displayed, and celery sticks with peanut butter and baby carrots with ranch dressing were handed out. To the delight of the PBO staff, the Director of the National Guard presented them with Commander's coins. The Director expressed his thanks for the service and support that the troops are receiving.

★ The USS Harry S. Truman hosted a family cruise day and approximately 4,000 crewmembers and guests attended this gala event. **DSO Tidewater** representatives were a part of this function and displayed and distributed fresh fruits and answered questions pertaining to the support provided by DSO Tidewater.

★ Federal Fruit and Produce and **PBO Denver** were successful in filling an emergency bagged salad requirement requested by Ellsworth AFB for this past weekend. The 24 cases of bagged salads were counter purchased by Federal Fruit and Produce through a commercial retail produce supplier located in Rapid City, South Dakota. The Ellsworth AFB produce department conducted a "will call" pickup at the commercial retail supplier facility early Saturday morning; the Commissary is most appreciative for the emergency service and support. The Chief, PBO Denver conducted an unannounced produce quality safeguard at Buckley AFB to insure that the quality and sizing of produce meets DeCA expectations.

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

“THE PRODUCE WAS WORTH THE TRIP!”