

PRO*ACT

CONNECTING FARMS | EMPOWERING KITCHENS™

Crop Update

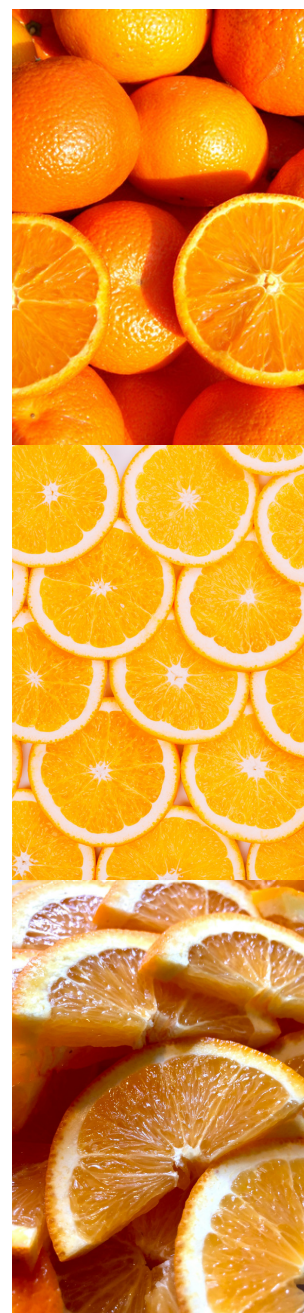
August 4, 2026

Small Fruit Squeeze

Citrus is moving into the part of summer where sizing matters more than total volume. Schools are coming back online, and demand for small fruit is expected to increase quickly as school and foodservice programs begin filling orders again. The challenge is that California Valencias are not built around that size profile this season. The crop is peaking closer to 72ct and larger, with 113ct and 138ct oranges expected to remain extremely limited.

Valencias are now the main domestic orange in the market. Quality has been good, but the crop is leaning toward larger fruit at the same time customers are starting to look for smaller sizes. There may be some small fruit available in pockets early in the month, but that should not be viewed as long-term coverage. Once school demand ramps up, small oranges will be harder to cover and size flexibility will be important.

Imported Navels from South Africa and Chile will help supplement summer citrus availability, but those programs are not expected to be a full answer for small fruit. Import volume will help fill some gaps, especially where customers can take larger or mid-size fruit, but school-friendly sizes will remain limited. Substitutions, split sizing, and flexibility between domestic Valencias and imported Navels may be needed to keep orders covered.



PRO*ACT

CONNECTING FARMS | EMPOWERING KITCHENS™

Crop Update

August 4, 2026

We may also continue to see some re-greening on Valencias as summer heat stays active in the San Joaquin Valley. This is a normal seasonal condition where the peel can show a green tint, but it is cosmetic and does not affect flavor, sugar, or eating quality. The bigger issue remains sizing, not eating quality.

Lemons remain elevated as District Two continues to carry much of the domestic crop. District Two, the Ventura/Oxnard coastal region, typically grades heavier to choice fruit than fancy due to coastal wind exposure. Offshore fruit from Argentina and Chile is helping supplement supply, and Mexican shipments are also building. These programs should help fill some gaps that California cannot cover, but pricing is expected to stay firm until overall availability improves.

As schools come back online, small oranges will be one of the harder items to cover. Carrots and grapes may not be a citrus replacement, but they are a strong items to keep in the school mix: small, kid-friendly, and much easier to plan around than 113ct and 138ct Valencias right now. Lead time, size flexibility, and a willingness to look at other school-friendly produce options will be the best way to stay covered through August.”

