

Produce Pack Guide

INFO SHEET

CROP TYPE	WEIGHT/UNITS	MATERIALS
Apples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 bu. cartons (weight depends on variety) • 40-lb. cartons w/ 8 5-lb. bags • 36-lb. cartons w/ 12 3-lb. bags • 3,5,6,7,8 or 10-lb. PETE/cello bags • 600-lb tote bin / 300-lb. half tote bin (w/ bags) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Packed on soft fiberboard trays or soft polystyrene • Vented cartons
Apricots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8-12 pint carton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tray-packed in single or double layers, or volume filled
Artichokes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classified by the number that fit into a standard carton of about 23 lb. eg. size 18 buds (18 buds per carton or >18s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartons • Package icing (2.2-lb. of ice per 4-lb. of product) or top-icing
Arugula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bunched should be packaged with 24-30 bunches per box. A bunch is 3/4-lb. on average • 1/9 bu. box is used • Loose should be packaged in 12 4-oz. bags per box 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiberboard cartons lined with perforated polyethylene bags, small sealed plastic bags, clamshell containers, or trays
Asparagus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make 12 oz. or 16 oz. bunches or pack 10-lb. loose • 1/2 bu. box or crate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Box or asparagus crate with butt end down • Package icing (2.2-lb. of ice per 4-lb. of product)
Atemoya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single layer 10-lb. (4.5kg) or 20-lb. (9kg) pack 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiberboard boxes with foam sleeves or paper wrapping
Avocado	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California avocados are packed in single-layer 12.5-lb. (5.67kg) flats or trays • 2-layer 25-lb. (11.34kg) lugs and 25-lb. (11.34kg) volume-fill boxes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flats, trays, lugs or volume-fill boxes
Beans (Snap)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pack 15-lb. in 1/2 bu. produce box • 26-31 lbs. in bu. crate, basket or box 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce box, crate, basket
Beans (Lima)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pack 15 lb. in 1/2 bu. produce box • 26-31 lbs. in bu. crate, basket or box 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce box, crate, basket
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Beets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topped beets can be packed loose in 1/2 bu. boxes or 25-lb. bags • Bunched beets (5-8 per bunch) should be packed in a 1 1/9 bu. box or crate with 12 to 24 bunches per box 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce box, bags, crate • Top-icing
Blackberries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-pint, 2-pint, or 1-quart vented plastic clamshell containers, packed in units of 12 per carton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vented plastic clamshell containers • Cartons
Blueberries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-or 2-pint vented polyethylene or polystyrene clamshell containers, 12 units to a tray 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vented polyethylene or polystyrene clamshell containers • Trays
Broccoli	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pack 10, 12, 14, 16 or 18 in 1 1/9 bu. produce box • Weight should be 23-lb. • Leave 6 in. of stem on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce box, carton • Inject liquid ice into the waxed cartons
Brussels Sprouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25-lb. (11kg) packed in a carton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic liners are often used in cartons with loose sprouts to reduce moisture loss. • Polyethylene bags are sometimes used in place of the plastic containers for consumer units.
Cabbage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pack 45-50-lbs. in 1 3/4 or 1 7/8 bu. waxed cabbage containers, cabbage bags or boxes. • Can also pack in bulk bins filled by count 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shipped in wax-coated corrugated cardboard cartons and wire-bound crates of various sizes • Water loss can be reduced and storage-life extended if heads are stored in perforated polyethylene bags
Cantaloupes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pack 9, 12 or 15 in flat melon boxes • Can also pack in bulk bins filled by count 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flat melon box, bulk bin
Carrots (bunched)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tie in bunches of 6 to 8 • Pack in 1 1/9 bu. produce boxes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce boxes • Top-ice after cooling
Carrots (loose)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25-lb. in 5/9 bu. waxed carton with perforated polyethylene liner • 50 lb. in 1 1/9 bu. carton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waxed carton with perforated polyethylene liner • Top-ice after cooling
Cauliflower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pack 9, 12 or 15 trimmed heads (leaves trimmed just above top of the head) in a cauliflower box 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce boxes • Top-ice
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Celeriac	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 1/9 bu. box, 24 to a box 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce boxes • Boxes should be unlined
Celery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60-lb. cartons with 48 stalks • Celery hearts - (8, 10, or 12" in length) - 18 or 28-lb. cartons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartons
Chard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pack 20-25-lbs. in bu. crates or cartons • 12-24 bunches per crate or carton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crates or cartons • Plastic films covering packaging reduces water loss • Top-ice, package ice (2.2-lb. of ice per 4-lb. of product), liquid ice
Cherimoya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carton size 9- and 18-lb. (4 and 8kg) with 12 to 24 count 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartons
Cherries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pack in 10-20-lb. cartons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartons
Collards & Kale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pack 20-25-lbs. in bu. crates or cartons • 12-24 bunches per crate or carton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crates or cartons • Using plastic films to cover packaging reduces water loss • Top-ice, package ice (2.2-lb. of ice per 4-lb. of product), liquid ice
Corn (sweet)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pack 5 doz. ears in corn bag, box, or crate • Can also pack in bulk bins filled by count 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corn bag, box, crate or bulk bin • Package ice (2.2-lb. of ice per 4-lb. of product) and top-ice after cooling • Injection of slush ice into cartons
Cranberries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartons containing 24 12-oz. polybags • Use 20, 25, and 30-lb. cartons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartons w/ polybags • Wood totes, for bulk sales
Cucumbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20-lb. in 5/9 bu. cartons • 40-lb. in 1/2 bu. or 1 1/9 bu. cartons or crates • 24-count cartons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartons or crates
Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15-lb. (6.8kg) flats of fiberboard or wood • 5 or 10-lb. (2.3 or 4.5kg) cartons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiberboard or wood flats • Cartons
Eggplant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pack in 1/2 bu. or 1 1/9 bu. produce boxes. • Count for standard eggplant should be 22-28 in 1 1/9 bu. produce box • Smaller specialty eggplant should be packed in 1/2 bu. produce boxes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce boxes
Elderberries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-pint, 2-pint, or 1-quart vented plastic clamshell containers, packed in units of 12 per carton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vented plastic clamshell containers • Cartons
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Endive & Escarole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pack in 1/2 bu. or 1 1/9 bu. produce boxes, cartons or crates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce boxes, cartons or crates • Packed ice in cartons (2.2-lb. of ice per 4-lb. of product)
Figs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pack in a one-layer box because fully mature fresh figs are soft, easily bruised, and highly perishable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-layer box
Garlic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Packed loose: 5, 10, 22, 30-lb. cartons • Smaller bags or trays for retail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartons, bags or trays
Ginger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sold in full telescoping 30-lb. (13.6kg), 20-lb. (6.8kg) fiberboard cartons or 5-lb. (1.7kg) cartons with film bags 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiberboard cartons • w/ film bags
Gooseberries & Currants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trays holding 12 half-pint containers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vented clamshell containers
Grapefruit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range from size 23 (23 fruit/carton) through to 56 (56 fruit/carton) • Commonly packed, stored and shipped in 4/5 bu. cardboard cartons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardboard cartons
Grapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No standard packaging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lugs • Quart-sized ventilated plastic containers • 2-lb. plastic slit bags
Guavas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shipped in 10-lb. (4.5kg) single-layer cartons with foam sleeves or wrapping to prevent injury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAP in polyethylene bags and use of wax coatings delays ripening/softening • Skin blackening is a problem when some wax coatings are applied
Herbs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pack in bunches 12 or 24 to 1/2 bu. box 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pack in plastic bags or clamshells, then pack in corrugated cartons • Perforated polyethylene liners will prevent dehydration and maintain quality. Use waxed boxes, lined with plastic • Some herbs (parsley) are top-iced
Honeydew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of fruit (based on a uniform fruit diameter and weight) per box to achieve a standard weight of 30-lb. (13.6kg) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce box

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Horseradish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 44-55-lb. (20-25kg) sacks • 2.2-lb. (1kg) packages • For storage: 33-lb. (15kg) polyethylene-lined crates • For storage: 660-1,100-lb. (300-500kg) containers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sacks, packages, polyethylene lined crates, containers
Jicama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wooden crates of 20+ lbs. (9+kg) • Carton boxes of about 10-lb. (4.5kg) for export 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wooden crates • Carton boxes
Kohlrabi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-1/9 bu. box – 24 bunches • With tops: bunched like beets, with 3-5 kohlrabi per bunch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce boxes • Package icing (2.2-lb. of ice per 4-lb. of product)
Leeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-lb. 1/3 bu. cartons or wire-bound crates • 12-count leafy greens carton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartons or wire-bound crates • Crushed ice
Lemons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common packaging specifications are 40-lb. (18.2kg) cartons, 10-lb. (4.6kg) mini-pack cartons, 8-lb. (3.6kg) consumer cartons, as well as 2, 3, and 5-lb. (0.9, 1.4 and 2.3kg) bags 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartons, mini-pack cartons, consumer cartons, bags • Boxes or cartons tightly packed and well filled
Lettuce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pack in 1 1/9 bu. boxes with uniform counts of 12 to 24 in every box 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisphead: 24-count cartons • Leaf lettuce: 20-25-lb. cartons • Butterhead/Boston: 20-lb. cartons • Bibb/greenhouse-grown: 10-lb. cartons
Limes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-lb. (4.5kg), 20-lb. (9.1kg) and 40-lb. (18.2kg) cartons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boxes or cartons tightly packed and well filled
Longons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-lb. (4.5kg) or 5-lb. (2.25kg) crates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-piece fiberboard crates with plastic lines, if not already packed in polystyrene containers
Lychee (Litchi)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-lb. (4.5kg) or 5-lb. (2.25kg) crates • 0.5 pint (0.12L) styrene containers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-piece fiberboard crates with plastic lines, if not already packed in polystyrene containers
Mangoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sold in 35-lb. (16kg) cartons, 14-lb. (6kg) flat single-layer cartons and 10-lb. (4.5kg) single-piece fiberboard boxes with various counts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartons, single-piece fiberboard boxes

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Mushrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pack in trays or cartons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pack in trays or cartons with a perforated polyethylene film overwrap to reduce moisture loss • It is important to avoid water condensation inside packages
Nectarines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-layer tray boxes (yellow-fleshed) • 1-layer tray boxes (white-fleshed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tray boxes
Nopales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loose packed in 10-20 lb. (4.5-9.0kg) cartons or boxes based on size and quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartons or produce boxes
Okra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-lb. clamshell boxes • Bulk weight or volume-filled 25-lb. bins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clamshell boxes • Bulk bins
Onions (Scallions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tie 6 to 9 in a bunch and pack 24 bunches in a 1/2 bu. box or 40 to 48 in a 1 1/9 bu. box 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce boxes • Top-ice
Onions (dry)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cure, grade and pack in 25 or 50 lb. bags 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bags
Oranges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard packed sizes used in California include 24, 32, 36, 40, 48, 56, 72, 88, 113, 138, 163, 180, 210, 245, and 270 fruit per 28.5L container. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-vented polyethylene and plastic mesh bags of various sizes • Carton design should include at least 5% side venting, designed to line up with adjacent carton vents to allow airflow through the entire load
Papayas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-lb. (4.5kg) cartons are common, although larger 22-lb. (10kg) cartons are also used • Count size ranges from 6 to 18, depending upon fruit and carton size 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartons • Foam mesh sleeves, foam padding on the bottom of cartons or paper wrapping to prevent abrasion injury in fruit with areas of green skin
Parsnips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25-lb. 5/9 bu. waxed carton with perforated polyethylene liner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waxed carton with perforated polyethylene liner
Peaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-layer tray boxes • 10 bu. bulk box • 1 bu. or 1/2 bu. box • White-flesh and tree-ripened: 1-layer tray boxes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tray boxes
Pears	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20-30-lb. box 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tray boxes

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Peas (hull)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pack 15-lb. in pea box • 1/2 bu. box • 30-lb. in bu. or 1 1/9 bu. boxes or baskets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boxes or baskets • Top-ice
Peas (sugar & snap)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pack in 10-lb. in 1/2 bu. produce box 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce boxes • Top-ice
Peppers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small size: 90 to 1 1/9 bu. box • Medium: 75 to 85 per box • Large: 60 to 70 per box • Extra large 45 to 55 per box • Bell peppers should be packed in 1 1/9 bu. boxes while specialty peppers are usually packed in 1/2 bu. boxes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce boxes
Plums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28-lb. volume-filled containers • 1/2 bu. box 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tray boxes
Pomegranates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small: 150-200g, 65-74mm diameter, 25-34 fruit/5kg carton • Medium: 201-300g, 75-84mm diameter, 17-25 fruit/5kg carton • Large: 301-400g, 85-94mm diameter, 13-17 fruit/5kg carton • Extra Large: 401-500g, 94-104mm diameter, 10-13 fruit/5kg carton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally packed into 2-layer tray packs or bulk cartons
Potatoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulk 50-lb 1 1/9 bu. carton • Bulk 25-lb 5/9 bu. carton • "Count" 50-lb. boxes • 5 or 10-lb. plastic or paper bags • 2-lb. net bags B-sized tubers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartons, boxes or plastic or paper bags
Prickly Pear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Packed according to color, size and condition in 10-lb. (4 1/2 kg) cartons, or may be packed in single or double layer tray cartons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartons • Single or double layered cartons • Large fruit may be wrapped in tissue paper to reduce scuffing and other physical injury • Fruit may also be packaged in cartons with perforated plastic liners to reduce water loss under dry storage conditions
Pumpkins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pack bulk by the count or weight • 800-900-lb. bulk containers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulk containers

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Radishes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tie 8 to 12 in a bunch so that 20 bunches fill a 1/2 bu. or 40 bunches a 1 1/9 bu. box 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce boxes
Raspberries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trays holding 12 pint or half pint containers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vented clam shell containers
Rhubarb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pack 15 1-lb. bunches in a bu. box 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce boxes
Rutabaga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25-lb. 5/9 bu. cartons with perforated polyethylene liners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartons with perforated polyethylene liners
Spinach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pack 5-lb. in 1/2 bu. box or 13-lbs. in 1 1/9 bu. box 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce boxes • Top-ice, liquid icing, package icing (2.2-lb. of ice per 4-lb. of product)
Sprouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alfalfa: 4-6 oz. containers with 12 containers/case • Mung bean: 4-6 oz. containers in 5-lb. open flats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Containers
Squash (Summer – Zucchini)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade for size and quality and pack in 1/2 bu. boxes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce boxes • Pack like sardines, with stem-end facing the carton walls to avoid damage
Squash (Winter)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade for size and quality. Pack in 1 1/9 bu. box 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce boxes
Strawberries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pint or quart 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pint or quart open mesh baskets, or clear clamshell containers, held in corrugated fiberboard tray
Sweet Potatoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade for size and quality and pack in 1/2 bu. or 1 1/9 bu. boxes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce boxes
Tangerines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4/5 bu. cartons are used for shipping and storage. • Marketable tangerines range from size 56 (56 fruit/carton) to size 210 (210 fruit/carton) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartons
Tomatillos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Packed in 10-lb. (4.5kg) cartons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartons
Tomatoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pack in 25-lb. tomato or 1/2 bu. produce boxes • Cherry tomatoes are packed in 12 pt. flats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce boxes or pint flats

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Turnips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pack in 25 or 50-lb. plastic bags • 1/2 bu. boxes • 1-lb. bags, packed 12 per carton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bags, boxes, cartons
Watermelons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 700 lb. corrugated bins (not for thin-skinned melons) • 50-60 lb. cartons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartons should have specially designed inserts to help support the weight of the fruit • Only brand new cartons should be used

This information was adapted from *Wholesale Success: The Guide to Selling, Postharvest Handling, and Packing Produce*, FamilyFarmed.org, 2010.

Was this Info Sheet helpful to you? Do you have suggestions for how we could improve it? We want to hear from you!

Contact Eva Antczak at evaa@farmsreach.com.