# Q1 Edition EFOURSEASONAL JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 2023

MERCHANDISING TIPS & IDEAS FOR INDEPENDENT RETAILERS



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# JANUARY 2023

#### **FEATURE ITEMS**

- Navel Oranges
- Salads
- Juicing & Cooking Greens
- Hass Avocados
- Blueberries
- Sweet Potatoes
- PotatoesApples
- Pears

#### **BEST OF SEASON**

- Heirloom Navel Oranges
- Cara Cara Oranges
- Blood Oranges
- Minneola Tangelos
- Grapefruit
- Meyer Lemons
- Pummelos
- SUMO Citrus (begin)

#### **PREMIUM APPLES**

- SugarBee
- Rockit
- Cosmic Crisp
- Jazz
- Envy
- Opal
- Ruby Frost
- Piñata

#### FOR MORE INFO:

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# Are you ready for **Diet Season?**

#### What is Diet Season?

The first few full calendar weeks in January after New Year's Day have become known in the retail and produce business as "Diet Season."

New Year's Resolutions focused on weight-loss and health shift eating behaviors, even if only for 2-3 weeks. As shoppers refill their kitchens with "fresh food" or return home from traveling, there are huge selling opportunities for fruits and vegetables.

Most retailers can expect a nice bump in both foot traffic and produce department sales as consumers are trying work off their holiday pounds and lead off their healthy eating resolutions?

#### What sells during Diet Season?

Be ready for increased demand on Salad Ingredients and Snacking Fruit. These commodities are among the hot-sellers for much of January:

- Salads & Salad Kits
- Berries & Apples
- Oranges & Mandarins
- Lettuces & Greens
- Peppers & Tomatoes
- Avocados & Bananas
- Broccoli & Cauliflower
- Carrots & Celery

Imagine if half of your customers bought an extra packaged salad and an extra pack of blueberries vs. normal weeks - how much more



would you need to be ready for, particularly from January 3 through January 11?

Diet Season also influences what consumers drink! Be prepared to sell more Functional Beverages and Fresh Beverages from your produce coolers:

- Fresh Orange Juice & Citrus Juices
- Kombuchas
- Protein & Keto Drinks
- Smoothies
- Cold Pressed Juices
- Wellness Shots

Another great way to prepare your produce department for Diet Season is to plan for additional sales on products that are ideal for home appliances that assist in healthy eating like Air Fryers, Juicers, and Blenders. Many consumers may get a new Juicer for Christmas or pull their Vitamix blender out of the cabinet. Here are some ideas:

 Order and merchandise for ingredients commonly used for in-home juicing and blending.

2) Create little tags reading "great for juicing" and placing by the price point sign on your display. Simple yet very effective!

3) Make specific sections in your department containing juicing items **recipe suggestions** at the point of sale, or **make "juicing recipe bags"** containing the ingredients for your favorite recipe in grab and go format.

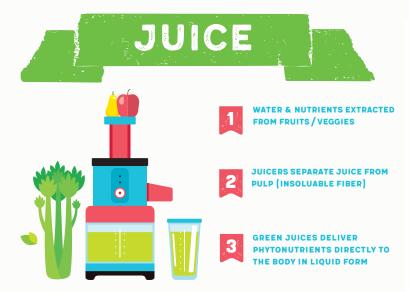


4) Generate excitement in January and offer a juicer as a giveaway and add some increased interest and exposure to the process. The tremendous growth in the juicing and smoothie craze will only continue. Be sure to be part of the fun!

Check out our Juicing v. Blending Infographic for best-seller produce ingredients!



# JUICING VS. BLENDING WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?





THE GREEN kale, spinach, or other dark leafy greens [3 cups]





CUCUMBER, CELERY, FENNEL, ROMAINE LETTUCE [2 FIELD CUCUMBERS OR 1 SEEDLESS CUCUMBER, OR 4 CELERY STALKS OR 1 CELERY HEART]

# THE CITRUS CLARITY

[1 - MOSTLY PEELED]

THE SWEET APPLE OR PEAR [2-3 WHOLE APPLES OR PEARS]

THE ZING GINGER OR TURMERIC (OPTIONAL) [THUMB SIZED PIECE]













ENTIRE FRUITS / VEGGIES ARE BLENDED IN A SMOOTHIE -KEEPING NUTRIENTS INTACT

BECAUSE PULP (INSOLUABLE FIBER) IS LEFT IN, THE SMOOTHIE BECOMES THICKER

SMOOTHIES ALLOW FOR EXTRA NUTRIENTS, LIKE PROTEIN -(GREEK YOGURT, POWDERS, ETC.)

# FORMULA FOR A GREEN SMOOTHIE

3

THE LIQUID STARTER

#### WATER, FRESH JUICE, OR COCONUT WATER [1 CUP]

#### THE GREEN BOOST

BABY SPINACH, BABY KALE, KALE, OTHER LEAFY GREENS [1 CUP]

#### THE FRUIT

BLUEBERRIES, BLACKBERRIES, STRAWBERRIES, RASPBERRIES, APPLES, PEARS, GRAPES, PINEAPPLES, MANGOS, PEACHES [2 CUPS FRESH OR FROZEN]

#### THE PROTEIN

GREEK YOGURT, YOGURT, CHIA SEEDS, RAW ALMONDS, FLAX SEEDS [1/2 CUP]

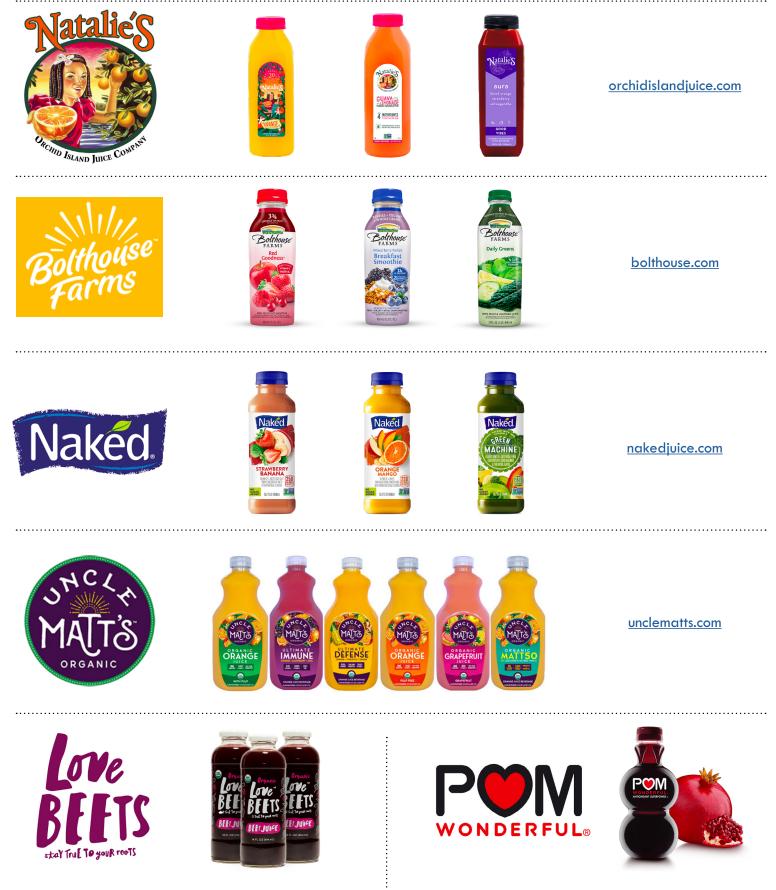
THE SMOOTH BANANA [1 FROZEN RIPE BANANA OR 1 WHOLE PEELED]

#### 

[2 CUPS]



# JUICES 8 FUNCTIONAL BEVERAGES STOCKED AT FOUR SEASONS PRODUCE!



lovebeets.com

pomwonderful.com

# JUICES 8 FUNCTIONAL BEVERAGES STOCKED AT FOUR SEASONS PRODUCE!









sogoodsoyou.com









sofrescousa.com









remedyorganics.com





gtslivingfoods.com





<u>babasbrew.com</u>





aquavitea.com

**KEVITA**<sub>@</sub>



<u>kevita.com</u>



# **Avocado Merchandising Displays & Tips**

Avocados are now considered one of the produce departments top selling items.



January, February, and March are prime months for Avocados from Mexico, both from the supply side and the consumer demand side.

With the fruit being so versatile, gone are the days when the fruit is just used for guacamole. Consumers, who are learning the health benefits of this fruit, are using avocados in salads, sandwiches, as toppings on burgers and just eating them by themselves.

#### So, once they are in your store and departments, how do you keep them maximize the sales potential they offer?

Avocados have such huge sales potential, that they should be offered some additional space in your produce department. No more dinky one basket displays that are seemingly lost in your tropical sections!

#### **IDEAS AND TIPS ON SELLING MORE AVOCADOS:**

• **Highlighting avocados front and center** in your department with a mass display is sure to get anyone's attention.

- Create a nice impact display walking into the front door.
- Keep your display neat & clean, with plenty of ripe fruit -Keep all the stickers are facing down. This keeps eyes only on product and not distracted by PLU stickers.
- End Cap Display A well placed display with waterfall offers more selling space and mass appeal.
- **Bin Display** Don't have an extra endcap or larger display space on your counters? No worries! Use a bin dummied up with empty boxes and place it in your aisle!
- **Cross-merchandise** ingredients used in guacamole and salads with your avocado display.





#### **POS MATERIALS:**

Use product info signs in your displays to help educate customers. Talk with your Four Seasons Produce merchandiser to get some point of sale material!

#### More **TIPS FOR RETAILERS** can be found at: avocadosfrommexico.com/shopper/avo-101/for-retailers

#### **PRE-CONDITIONING IN-STORE:**

While it is best to offer both ripe and unripe fruit on your avocado displays, there are times when your fruit may come in hard and unripe, or you sell fruit faster than expected.

Four Seasons Produce offers professionally "Pre-Conditioned" Avocados where the ripening of the fruit has been triggered in a ripening-room and sold at a pressure of 15-25lb.

To pre-condition Hass Avocados yourself in the store, follow these quick steps:

1) Pick how many boxes of Avocados you want to ripen.

**2)** Take a banana, onion, tomato, or anything that naturally gives off ethylene, and place it in the box with the fruit.

**3)** Cover with any plastic bag—something that will trap the ethylene in and place the box back in storage.

**4)** Depending on how fast you need or want fruit to ripen, you may also cut a few holes in the plastic to allow some of the gas to escape. Simple as that!

**5)** Note — be sure to monitor your pre-conditioning fruit to insure fruit is at the ripeness you want and doesn't get overripe by keeping them covered.



# Large Assortment Stocked at Four Seasons Produce!

## World-Class Juice For Retail/Foodservice

Meticulously crafted to create an unrivaled drinking experience. Whether it's concocting fresh libations, bountiful indulgences or cheffing world-class cuisine, our juices are a preferred choice by leading industry professionals across the nation.



#### Authentic Nutrition For Your Grab N' Go Lifestyle

Sip on award-winning juices and enjoy an unrivaled tasting experience with the perfect on-the-go bottle size for your next adventure.







## The Natalie's Way



#### 01 Honestly Sourced

### As fourth-generation citrus farmers, you can say our passion for agriculture & love for Florida citrus runs deep.

We seek only the highest-quality ingredients beginning with our closest neighbors - Florida growers. Sourcing from local & regional farmers ensures we support the livelihoods of our surrounding community first. For ingredients that we cannot find in our region, we look toward fellow American growers whenever possible.

All that to say, we put great thought into how we source our ingredients. From handpicking the best ingredients to making conscious efforts to support local growers, we make every effort to bring forth great juices, honestly.



#### 02 Squeezed Fresh

Authentic freshness is made by juicing hand-selected fruits & vegetables in small batches each week.

At Natalie's, our juices are gourmet pasteurized at the minimum temperature, for the minimum amount of time to ensure we deliver fresh, nutritious juice. We never shy away from the meticulous practice (& significant investment) of juicing fresh & often, which means that quality is never compromised.





#### **Clean Label**

The purity of wholesome ingredients & their inherent health benefits drives us to create clean, authentic juices without additives, preservatives, or GMOs.

One look at the label should tell you everything you need to know. With minimal ingredients in each bottle, we offer authentically fresh juice with ingredients you know  $\vartheta$  trust. With all that freshness, our bottles do come with an expiration date, because nature's freshness is meant for "of the moment" enjoyment. Clean practices. Clean label juice.

### 04 Environmentally Thoughtful

#### Supporting a clean label operation goes beyond what's in the bottle.

Natalie's has the smallest carbon footprint in the juice industry  $\vartheta$  works with intention to maintain its commitment to the environment. Our citrus waste heads to cattle farms where it is repurposed feed. We are also committed to supporting American jobs which is why all of our packaging is made in America  $\vartheta$  100% recyclable.







#### **USAPears.org**

#### BARTLETT (BART-let)

Signature sweet pear flavor with abundant juice when fully ripe IN SEASON – August through February

#### RED ANJOU

(ON-ju) Juky with a fresh, sweet and slightly tangy flavor IN SEASON – October through June

BOSC (BAHsk) Crisp, woodsy and honey-sweet IN SEASON – September through April

> SECKEL (SEK-el) Bite-sized, crunchy and ultra-sweet IN SEASON - September through February



Scan this code with your mobile device to visit **USAPears.org** for recipes, nutrition facts and more. FORELLE (for-EL) Crisp, tangy and refreshingly sweet IN SEASON – September through January

FOR RIPENESS

STARKRIMSON (star-KRIM-son) Aromatic, juicy and sweet with a floral essence

IN SEASON – August through November

#### ANJOU (ON-ju)

Refreshingly sweet and juicy with a hint of citrus IN SEASON – October through July



RED BARTLETT (BART-let) Juicy and sweet with a heady floral essence when fully ripe IN SEASON – August through December

#### COMICE (ko-MEESE) Succulent, buttery and exceptionally

sweet when ripe IN SEASON – September through February

#### CONCORDE (KON-kord)

Crunchy and sweet with a distinct vanilla flavor IN SEASON – September through December



Store unripe pears in a fruit bowl and let stand at room temperature. Check the Neck<sup>®</sup> daily, applying gentle thumb pressure to the neck, or stem end. If it yields slightly, it's ripe, sweet and juicy. Enjoy ripe pears immediately, or refrigerate to slow further ripening.



### Pear Marketing and Merchandising Training Program

Welcome! The growers of USA Pears are pleased to provide everything a produce pro needs to know about USA Pears – so you can **increase** your **pear knowledge** and also your **pear sales!** 

Get Started

#### **FEATURE ITEMS**

- California Mandarins
- SUMO Citrus
- Blueberries
- Idaho Potato Navel Oranges
- Hass Avocados
- Strawberries
- Grapes
- Asparagus

#### **BEST OF SEASON**

FEBRUARY 2024

- SUMO Citrus
- Heirloom & Jumbo Navel Oranges
- Grapefruit

Cosmic Crisp

SugarBee

- Cara Cara Oranges
- Blood Oranges

#### **PREMIUM APPLES**

• Jazz

#### **FOR MORE INFO:**





- Envy
- Artichokes

Brussels Sprouts

Asparagus

Broccoli Rabe

- Opal
- Ruby Frost

• Minneola Tangelos

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# Set New Records with Floral in February!

February is the **PERFECT** time to capture **BIG** time floral sales, create new sales opportunities and draw new customers into your store by offering fresh cut flowers!

Valentine's Day is the biggest floral holiday of the year and the Four Seasons Produce is ready to help you nail it!

#### **ORDERING TIPS:**

• The bulk of your bouquets and arrangements should arrive by Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. With Valentine's Day falling on Tuesday, many will celebrate through the weekend.

• Plan to have your displays built by no later than Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup> with fresh orders coming in on Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>.



• Have options and multiple price points to appeal to shoppers with varying budgets. And don't be scared of having some highend bouquets and extra fancy rose configurations featured too for this last minute gifting event.



#### **DISPLAY TIPS:**

• Plan in advance to have space for a display at or near the front of the store entrance to capture as much foot traffic as possible.

• Have tie ins such as berries, baked goods, candy, balloons, cards, wine and other complimentary gift ideas incorporated into or near your floral displays.

• Make sure displays can be easily shopped with plenty of space for carts and buckets and arrangements are able to be reached without being knocked over.

• Organize displays by color and variety for a clean look.

#### **PRO TIPS:**

• Upgrade some of the arrangements you've bought by adding picks, ribbon, and balloons yourself in store to create a new product you can now charge an even higher price for.

• Create a space off of the sales floor to prepare and store buckets for display.

• **Print signs** for your display ahead of time. Clean, clean, easy to read sign will help you sell!

• Use the in-store audio system to advertise your floral display and tie-in items.

#### **LABOR TIPS:**

• Schedule labor for initial display build out on the sales floor on Thursday 2/9 & Friday 2/10.

• Have enough help available on 2/12, 2/13 & 2/14 to answer customer questions, offer suggestions and upgrades, as well as consolidate and rework displays to keep from looking shopped.



Four Seasons Produce, Inc. 2023 17

#### ASK YOUR REP ABOUT THE MONTHLY BOUQUET PROGRAM FROM FLORANATION

#### Valentine's pre-books due 12/27





# FOUR SEASONS FLORAL ORDER SCHEDULE

(please provide your customer # when ordering)

#### **TUESDAY:**

Call or email Evelin with your cut product pre-order for delivery Friday/Saturday of the same week. PHONE: 202-331-1130 ext. 106 FAX: 202-529-3870 EMAIL: eescobar@floranation.com

#### THURSDAY:

Email Adrienne or call your Four Seasons rep with a potted plant order for delivery the following Friday. EMAIL: adrienne@fsproduce.com

#### FRIDAY:

Call or email Evelin with you cut product pre-order for delivery the following Tuesday/Wednesday. PHONE: 202-331-1130 ext. 106 FAX: 202-529-3870 EMAIL: eescobar@floranation.com

# 🂐 Dan Schantz Farm

#### ASK YOUR REP ABOUT OUR MONTHLY POTTED PLANT PROGRAMS







## WINTER IS CITRUS SEASON JANUARY - MARCH

# **Our Citrus Partners & Brands:**



#### READ THIS CITRUS MERCHANDISING ARTICLE BY FSP'S BRIAN DEY: www.producemarketguide.com/news/handling-avalanche-citrus



Arring yes watam citrus, reading into the new year when so many consumers are focused on nearby eating, the citrus category's versability shines, whether consumers buy for snacking or juicing. Writer is the ideal time to manage and promote that avalanche of when excision encode sectors.

#### Pricing and dicing

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#### Super citrus spectacle

In workel data, they win contex is a disappoint subservative with the second se











Bursting with juicy sweetness, Sumo Citrus® is one of the world's largest and sweetest mandarins. Distinguished for its Top Knot<sup>™</sup> and uneven skin, this rare seedless hybrid variety delivers the ultimate citrus experience: incredibly sweet and easy-to-peel, without the mess! Born in Japan and raised

sumo

NDCRAFTED

ORMOUSIN

0

in California, Sumo Citrus is grown with care by our passionate, expert growers. Each Sumo Citrus tree is pruned and harvested by hand, which means we hold this notoriously difficult-to-grow fruit to high standards so only the best are called Sumo Citrus.

> UMO ITRUS<sup>®</sup>

### Available from January – April

follow us @SUMOCITRUS

RIIS

ENORMOUSLY DELICIOUS





The first bite of an heirloom Vintage Sweet navel orange is pure bliss: luscious aroma and delightful flavor for a wonderful eating experience. Our citrus sommeliers hand select the fruit from our best old line groves and test it for peak sugar levels and perfect flavor to deliver on the Vintage Sweets promise.

TASTE THE DIFFERENCE!

# PEAK SEASON IS JANUARY - MAY!

# PREMIUM APPLE VARIETIES THAT WILL BE PROMOTABLE IN FEBRUARY 2023!

# SNACKING SUPERSTAR



The perfectly balanced flavor, crisp texture and standout juiciness in every Cosmic Crisp<sup>®</sup> apple make it your go-to ingredient for snacking, baking and entertaining.



Get inspired at cosmiccrisp.com







uses	Great for snacks, baking, for use in fresh salads, or beverages
description	Crisp, sweet and juicy with complex aromatic honey flavors, also stores well
	Salty goat and ewe's milk cheeses like Feta, Humboldt Fog or Pecorino
	A crisp off-dry Gewürztraminer or Riesling, balances a cheese with a high salt content



PHONE: 800.422.8384 | WWW.FSPRODUCE.COM



#### FEATURE ITEMS

- Jumbo Navel Oranges
- California Mandarins
- Asparagus Strawberries
- Grapes

#### **BEST OF SEASON**

- Murcott Mandarins
- Golden Nugget Mandarins
- SUMO Citrus
- Cara Cara Oranges
- Blood Oranges
- Minneola Tangelos
- Heirloom & Jumbo Navel Oranges
- Grapefruit
- Blackberries

Raspberries

(- 207E

- Honey/Ataulfo Mangos
- Asparagus
- Artichokes
- Brussels Sprouts
- Broccoli Rabe
- Rainbow Carrots
- Campari Tomatoes
- New Color Potatoes FL

#### **FOR MORE INFO:**







# CHECK OUT THESE MERCHANDISING ARTICLES BY FSP'S BRIAN DEY IN THE PACKER'S PMG!

#### **ARTICHOKE & ASPARAGUS MERCHANDISING:**

#### www.producemarketguide.com/news/artichoke-and-asparagus-merchandising



Artichoke and asparagus merchandising

Greetings, produce professionals, and welcome to the produce department



Build a basket, create a meal

These two commodities are perfect for tying in so many other items, both in the produce department and from around the stc help build basket size. Some great tie-ins to include in or near your displays are lemons, garlic, breadcrumbs, olive oils, pastas, potatoes, parmesan cheese, mayo and hollandaise sauce. The list is nearly endless.



One of my favorites is placing wooden skewers on display with asparagus and calling out grilled asparagus rafts. It's different cool to see on the grill and plate, and it's something that a customer might not have ever thought about.

All of these add sales for the department and suggest meal ideas for your customers. There are myriad recipes online that car

#### **ROOT VEG MERCHANDISING:**

#### www.producemarketguide.com/news/rooting-these-sometimes-unflashy-vegetables



Rooting for these (sometimes) unflashy vegetables



Consumers are craving healthy comfort foods, substance and something for dinner that will warm their families' appetites on a col

#### Learn more: Golden beets

A few other cool varieties to include when available are horseradish, **burdock root Chioggia beets (candy cane beets)**, watermelon radishes and black radishes. Let's not forget to include South and Central American roots, such as **yucca**, **malanga**, **taro root**, and the increasingly popular **jicama**. And, although ginger and **turmeric root** are not botanically roots, (they are rhizomes or stems), consumers will look at these two as roots. Their thirst for these two is at an all-time high, as they are a juicing staple and nutritional powerhouses. These are must-haves for any produce department.



Like I mentioned, there is a root for everyone.

#### **Radiant roots**

With all this variety and color, who says you can't paint a picture or be super creative? Like I mentioned above, root vegetables really do help make a wet rack become a work of art. Bright colored radishes and mixed carrots add that zing of color in between the sea of green, and bulk bins or baskets filled with roots add splashes of excitement in your cases. Also, never be afraid to carry bunched or bulk roots of the same variety, such as bunched beets and bunched carrots. Not only do they add color within the wet rack sets, but consumers will also actually use the tops and greens for salads, juicing or side dishes. Be sure to keep roots misted and watered frequently as being in air without mist and on refrigeration will draw moisture out of them.

### Sunkist PEAK SEASON MARCH CITRUS For more info: sunkist.com





NAVEL ORANGE The Essential Orange <sup>™</sup>



CALIFORNIA MANDARIN Peel Good Citrus TM



**CARA CARA** ORANGE The Pink Orange



**BLOOD ORANGE** Dramatically Delicious TM





**MINNEOLA TANGELO** Over the Top Juicy

**RED AND PINK** 

**GRAPEFRUIT** 



**EUREKA & LISBON** LEMON **Classic and Zestfully** Delicious



**MEYER LEMON** The Sweet Lemon