



Important Notice

WEATHER IMPACT ON QUALITY & SUPPLY

Dear Valued Customer,

We want to make you aware of significant changes in the asparagus market that are affecting current availability and may continue to impact supply well beyond this growing season. Supplies from both Mexico and Peru are currently extremely limited, with the greatest pressure on Extra Large and Jumbo asparagus. Current production is much more heavily weighted toward smaller spears. Heat in Mexico and warmer-than-normal conditions in Peru have reduced yields, adding to today's shortage. However, this is not simply a temporary weather or seasonal issue.

Asparagus is one of the most labor-intensive fresh produce crops, contributing to a significant long-term reduction in California acreage. More importantly to today's year-round supply, productive acreage in Peru has also declined, while older fields have not been replaced with new plantings at the same rate. This matters because asparagus is a perennial crop. As fields age, productivity declines, including their ability to consistently produce larger-diameter spears. New fields require significant investment and several years to establish and reach meaningful commercial production. As a result, rebuilding the industry's capacity to consistently supply larger sizes could take years rather than months.

For the foreseeable future, customers should be prepared for:

- Extremely limited availability of XL and Jumbo sizes
- Greater availability of Standard and smaller sizes
- Elevated and potentially volatile pricing
- Size substitutions when larger specifications cannot be filled
- Occasional prorates or shorts

Flexibility on size will be increasingly important. Where the finished dish or presentation allows, accepting an alternate size will provide the best opportunity to maintain consistent supply and manage cost.

Our Purchasing and Category teams will continue working across our supplier network to secure the best available asparagus and communicate significant market changes. Your Vesta representative can also help identify appropriate alternatives when your preferred size is unavailable.

Thank you for your understanding and continued partnership.

THE VESTA FOODSERVICE TEAM

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