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## **Champagne mango outlook bright this spring**

By

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February 22, 2021

Mexico's mango business is a very bright spot amid freezes and other problems facing North America's produce industry.

Chris Ciruli, COO, of Ciruli Bros. LLC said, "In the big picture, Mexico's season began in the early

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days of January. That is an extremely early start. February continued to have elevated mango volumes versus February 2020.”

Ciruli’s Champagne-brand Ataulfo mangos were first harvested Feb. 12. “We’re crossing the first loads in Pharr, TX, as we speak,” Ciruli said Feb. 16.

He added that another unique feature of this Mexican mango shipping season is that, as of mid-February, three states were simultaneously shipping. These states are Chiapas, Oaxaca and Michoacan. Normally Michoacan, which is further north, wasn’t in the mango deal so early.

But the unusual wide, early production will keep volumes up “and you will see it continue to rise in early March,” he said.

Mexico’s mango groves enjoyed beneficial rain early in the winter. That moisture contributed to the size of this early fruit.

“The sizes are good. We’re packing ‘chain store’ sizes: 16s and 18s. That’s a nice size for promotion on Champagne mangos,” he said. “The industry has a very good spring kick into March and April.”

Ciruli noted that the presence of his bright yellow mangos on retail shelves will add to consumer excitement about spring’s arrival.

“It will be a very good crop from now until after Easter,” Ciruli said. He added that it’s too early to forecast about the late spring Mexican mango deal.

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