

November

Market News

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Overview

October has proved to be one of the mildest on record providing a smooth cross over into winter programs. General summer crops have just run out rather than being ploughed back because of frosts.

Trade in the wholesale arena has been slow through October and expected to remain so through November.

Seasonal changes

UK salad production has now come to an end. Spain is now the main source of Iceberg, Tomato, Cucumber, Fancy Leaf, Peppers, Celery and Broccoli – quality is excellent.

Current Challenges

Grapes are just going through a hemisphere change from European (Greece & Spain) to South America (Brazil & Peru) where quality will be much improved.

Looking Forward

Seasonal Lines

05999 Cooked Vac Pac Chestnuts x 400g

76912 Loose Chestnuts x 4.5kg

74948 Cranberries x 340g

75229 Leafy Clementine's x 10kg

In Season UK

- Pumpkin and mixed squashes are still available
- English Apple and Pear
- Purple sprouting broccoli
- Fresh Corn on the cob (Nearing the end)



Vegetables

Potatoes – Growers have been concentrating on getting crops into store which is nearly complete. Quality of baking potatoes is good and they eat superbly, varieties throughout November will be Melody, Estima and Harmony. Maris Piper is good and dry matters are now reaching 19/22% with excellent fry quality, currently from Shropshire/Lincolnshire. UK crops of Salad potatoes are in short supply and lacking good skin. French crops are also tight but do have a better skin finish, overall supply from the 2011 crop is thought to be short. Supply of the UK Mids is adequate at the moment, but in the months to come, supply will be very tight due to the lack of small potatoes in the crops. Currently using Mids from Hereford, Shropshire and Cambridge and quality is good.

Carrot – Quality and supply of English carrot is good, strawing of crops is well underway before the first frost arrives.

Parsnip and Swede – Quality of parsnip is good and crops are bulking up well. Quality of swede is also good, with no problems expected.

Cauliflower – Production will be from Lincolnshire and Cornwall, moving south due to the warmer climate. The mild weather we have been experiencing has brought crops forward, if temperatures drop in November the crops will stop growing and we could see a fall in production towards the end of the month. Production will be moving to Spain in December.

Cabbage – Savoy cabbage is on target for this time of year, quality and sizing is excellent. Just like savoy, the Green cabbage is looking good as we approach the colder months. All cold stored White and Red cabbage has been harvested, in the first few weeks of November all barn stored cabbage will be harvested and be safely in store by mid November. Spring Greens continue to come from Lincolnshire, no quality or availability issues. Kale going well.

Brussel Sprouts – Sprout harvesting from Lincolnshire is well underway, quality is excellent.

Broccoli – Production has now switched from UK to Spain, there are not quality or supply issues to report.

Onion – Large Spanish onion is going well, quality and availability is good. UK & Dutch yellow and red onion is going well with no quality or availability issues to report.

Salads

Aubergine – Spain is now supplying for the winter, quality is good.

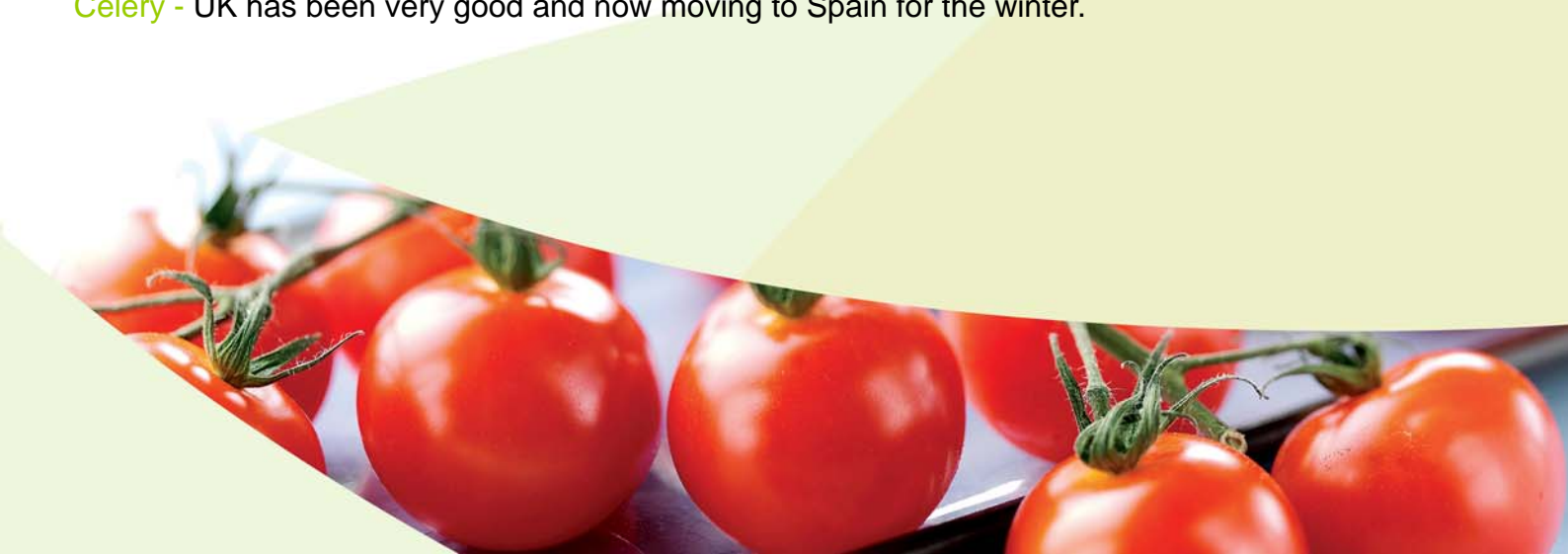
Capsicums – Quality from the Netherlands is good but shelf life will reduce over the coming weeks, some Spanish is now being seen and will increase as we approach November.

Tomatoes – Quality good albeit a little on the pale side, due to poor light levels and cooler nights through September. Spanish is 4 weeks away to get the required colour.

Courgette – Dutch glass house has now moved to Spanish crop this week.

Cucumbers – Spanish supply through winter, quality is good.

Celery - UK has been very good and now moving to Spain for the winter.



Leaf

Iceberg, Cos and Gems –Spanish is now underway and quality is good although there has been a lot of rain in growing area of Murcia.

Fancy Leaf –Spanish is now underway and quality good.

Fruit

Apples

UK- Cox apples are of superb quality and an excellent eat, keep an eye out for Braeburn and Gala which are also at their best.

Overall availability out of France this year is good with plenty of large size fruit although small sizes are less plentiful this year due to excellent growing conditions.

Golden Delicious– French fruit is delivering excellent quality and availability is good.

Red Apple – Red Chief from South East France has taken us through October, more Braeburn and Gala will be available up to Christmas. Quality is excellent.

Granny Smith – French quality is very good and supply is good, no problems.

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Stone Fruit

Peach & Nectarine –out of season.

Plum- Italian

Melon

Honeydew, Galia, Cantaloupe & Water - Brazilian fruit is well under way and eating great, this will take us through winter.

Citrus

Orange –Small fruit remains short and expected to remain so until December when Egyptian Valencia starts. Spanish Navelinas will start November which is larger fruit and supplied as large and medium.

Lemon - Turkish Interdonato will continue but Spanish Prima Flore will take over in November, first arrivals look superb.

Easy Peelers –Spanish Satsuma now eat very well and peel easily. Colour is good.

Banana

Overall fruit is very good. Heavy rain during the last ten days in Costa Rica, Colombia, Guatemala and Honduras will reduce fruit availability later in the month. Dominican Republic is currently at its peak in production and no production problems are reported. Ivory Coast is experiencing slightly cooler weather than usual which is effecting the grade and maturity of fruit. Cameroon has recovered from poor weather conditions, fruit grade and size is back to normal.



Berries

Strawberry – All production through November will be Dutch glasshouse, variety Elsanta. All fruit will be fragile with a short shelf life and quite small in size. Usually toward the end of the month Jordanian, Ethiopian and Israeli fruit is available, however early indications are that this has been delayed.

Raspberries – Spanish production is in full swing, varieties Sugana, Glen Ample and America are being supplied where quality is good. Mexican fruit is also available in small quantities.

Blackberries – Some Dutch glasshouse production will be seen throughout the month, but the majority of the fruit will be from Mexico and Guatemala. Rain has been a major issue in Central and South America and this can effect quality.

Blueberries – Volume is limited on air freighted stock from Uruguay and Argentina and is also very expensive. The main varieties are Jewel, Emerald and Misty, quality is generally good but heavy rain has caused a few small issues on quality. Toward the end of the month the first sea freight stock will arrive, prices will drop sharply as availability improves.

Red Currants – Fruit will be Dutch CA stored, this will run until Christmas.

Grapes

Green – Greek production will come to a end in the first half of November and will be replaced by Brazilian Sugeon and Thompson, some Peruvian fruit may be seen toward the end of November also.

Red – Spanish Crimson will be quite pale in colour for the next few weeks, this is due to high temperatures in Spain. Brazilian Crimson will replaced the Spanish Crimson in early November, early reports on this production is good.

Exotics

Sugar Snaps & Mange Tout – Mainly Kenya with some Guatemala – quality is good.

Beans – Kenya is improving day by day, quality good.

Avocado – Currently Spanish but moving to Israeli towards the end of the month. Quality good.

Baby Corn - Availability has been extremely desperate due to flooding. Quality however has been very good.

Asparagus Tips – Availability is **exceptionally** difficult due to flooding in Thailand and would advise against as quality may be effected.

Butternut - Spanish started well, we may see Portuguese later in month, quality good.

Baby Vegetables - South African production is improved, no quality issues. French supplies of **Baby Turnips** has been slow but **Beetroot** is good.

Chillies – Dutch continues to do a good job with no issues to report.

Sweet Potatoes – USA starts in around 2 weeks, crop reports are good.

Figs - Turkish crop is nearing the end, moving to Israel before Brazil starts at the end of the month.

Mango - Brazilian Tommy Atkins is preferred with , Keitt and Hayden also available.

Limes - Brazilian new crop is very good, no problems foreseen.

Garlic - Good quality Chinese.

Ginger – Chinese, also good quality.

Shallots - Good quality French.

