

August

Market News

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Overview

Even though we had a warm start to July, on average it was coolest July since 2000. We also experienced several chilly nights and recorded the coldest night in July since 1980. The cool weather not only kept people indoors, but also affected production of open grown crops. There is no real impact on availability as the UK harvest was already ahead of the game. The wholesale markets have seen another quiet trading month due to poor weather and the annual holiday season. European demand continues to trade down following the foods scares of June.

Current Challenges

- Orange volumes are still on the low side especially smaller sizes. Skin finish is a bit scruffy at the moment but expected to improve going forwards and they eat really well.
- News season Potatoes will have a reduced shelf life due to thin skins, please keep stocks tight.
- Dutch/Belgium conference is nearing the end with reduced shelf life with the new season only weeks away.

Looking Forward

- Moving from Southern to Northern Hemisphere on Apples & Pears over the coming months.
- No real supply problems to report – everything is looking pretty good.

In Season UK

- Fresh Corn on the cob.
- Peas & Beans are at their best.
- Strawberries very tasty.
- New season Baking and New Potato are fantastic.



Vegetables

Potatoes – Crops continue to make good progress, quality and crop health generally good. There are some reports of scab which is due to the dry growing conditions in April and May. There are reports of reduced plantings for the 2011/2012 crop. All bakers are now new crop where quality is excellent. New Lincolnshire crop Maris Piper is now been supplied where dry matters are around 17/19% which will increase to 19/22% as the season progresses. New crop Maris Peer is now the variety used for the salads, skins are set and the eat quality is superb. Volumes available on the UK Mids are adequate due to the new crop being large and small size tubers are limited, quality is good though.

Carrot – New season UK is now well underway, quality and supply is good.

Parsnip and Swede - New season parsnip has now started, quality and supply is good however sizing of the parsnip is a little smaller which is typical of new season crop. Quality of swede is good, with no problems expected.

Cauliflower – Lincolnshire production of cauliflower is going extremely well, with excellent quality heads being harvested. Extra care has been taken to ensure avoidance of any aphid issues which we were seeing this time last year. To help combat any potential issues the outer leaves are being trimmed well back.

Cabbage – Savoy cabbage is excellent quality with no supply issues. New season White cabbage is still slightly green due to it being new season, quality and supply is good. New season Green cabbage is looking excellent with no issues foreseen. New season Red cabbage will be lighter for the first few weeks but quality is good. Spring Greens continue to come from Lincolnshire, no quality or availability issues.

Broccoli – Production continues to be from Lincolnshire where quality is good, however more stringent QA checks are being carried out as the recent hot, wet weather conditions have caused some crops to develop hollow head.

Onion – Large Spanish onion is well underway, quality is good and availability is improved. Cooking onion is now new season, quality & availability is good.

Salads

Aubergine – Dutch quality and availability is good.

Capsicums - Dutch crops look great, quality and availability good

Tomatoes – Dutch & UK are very good with no supply issues.

Courgette – UK season going well, quality is excellent.

Cucumbers – Dutch & UK quality is good, availability also good.

Celery - UK is very good with no supply issues.



Leaf

Iceberg, Cos and Gems – All UK with quality and availability being very good.

Fancy Leaf – Looks and taste fantastic. UK crop.

Fruit

Apples

Golden Delicious - Quality is good but volumes are now much reduced, new season French will take the pressure off within a few weeks.

Red Apple - South African Braeburn eats really well but volumes are reducing.

Granny Smith – South African supply are good quality and still a fantastic crunch, volumes are now reduced.

Stone Fruit

Peach & Nectarine – Italian & Spanish are both eating really well.

Melon

Honeydew, Galia & Cantaloupe - Spanish Murcian season will end in September. Availability of Galia is still good, Cantaloupe volume are slightly reduced. Skin on Honeydew is improved and availability is good. **Watermelons** – Spanish fruit is very good and expected to remain so up to the Brazilian season starting during Sept.

Citrus

Orange – Volumes of Southern Hemisphere fruit are reduced, especially smaller sizes. Skin marking continues to be a problem following frosts experienced in South America earlier on. There have been some improvements and expected to improve going forward

Lemon - Eureka is going well, they look very bright and have good juice content.

Easy Peelers – Uruguayan mandarin peel easily and taste good.

Banana

Demand is typically low at this time of year due to school holidays and annual leave and so supply is ample. Costa Rica, South America and Ivory Coast are at normal production at present and not experiencing any severe problems.

Dominican Republic is assessing the damage from tropical storm Emily. It isn't clear whether this will affect production and export.



Soft Fruit

Berries

Strawberry – Scottish volumes are decreasing rapidly as their main crop comes to a end. Local fruit volumes are increasing rapidly as the 60 day Elsanta coincides with the Everbearer fruit. Quality on both is very good, varieties supplied will be Albion and Evie 2.

Raspberries – The unseasonably warm spring brought a tight flush of fruit starting early and finishing early making raspberry supply very tight until the autumn fruiting varieties start in mid August.

Blackberries – The UK season is now in full swing, good quantities and excellent quality, varieties include Loch Ness, Chester and Karaka Black.

Blueberries – Polish volumes are not as big as anticipated due to the late frost and poor weather. Volumes will be supplemented by Dutch, Belgium and French crops throughout August, quality is good across the board.

Red Currents – All supply until the end of August will be UK crop with stored fruit supplementing the fresh crop.

Grapes

Green – Spanish Superior will continue throughout August, quality remains good.

Red – Chilean Crimson will be replaced by Spanish Crimson at the start of August. Eat quality will be superb with no supply issues foreseen.

Exotics

Sugar Snaps & Mange Tout - Kenya is still struggling with drought, now moving to more southern African countries.

Beans – Similar problem with Kenya. Yield very low but quality good when available.

Avocado - Peruvian supplies slowing, quality good. South African supplies filling any shortfall.

Baby Corn - Availability and quality is good from Thailand.

Asparagus Tips – Still a few challenges due to high temperatures in Thailand, keep stock tight.

Lemon Grass - Quality is fine.

Butternut - Greek has now started and quality is the best its ever been.

Baby Vegetables - South African production is now sporadic. Fennel & Courgette very difficult. French supplies of **Baby Turnips** and **Beetroot** are improving.

Chillies – Spanish still going well, Dutch coming through until UK hits the mark

Sweet Potatoes - USA continues well with good quality even though we are in the last couple of months of stored. New season is around 6-8weeks.

Figs - Brazilian crop is finished, Israeli being used until Turkish available in about a weeks time.

Mango - Brazilian production started and quality is good, we will start with Tommy Atkins.

Limes - Brazilian is very good quality.

Garlic - Good quality but in still short supply new crop is expected late August.

Ginger - New Chinese season underway.

Shallots - Good quality new season, still very expensive.

