



MARKET NEWS

July 2010

Overview

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Last month

Generally trade has been quiet in the wholesale markets, its believed that a combination of good weather and the World Cup has changed peoples habits, with people opting to stay at home rather than sweating it out at the local pub or restaurant.

Looking forward

On the growing side we really do need more rain. The North-West is now experiencing the driest six months since 1929, with the introduction of the first hosepipe ban in 14 years. This shortage of rain is reflected in most counties.

In season and home grown:

UK Gooseberries have just started - but buy now, as its forecast to be a short season due to the weather. Fantastic British Strawberries continue and new season Salad Potatoes are well underway and the eating quality is fantastic.

In season

Stone Fruit: Cherries, Apricot, Peach and Nectarine continue to eat well.

Season Changes/ Difficulties

High temperatures and low rain fall are stressing some crops, namely Cauliflower, some Cabbage and Leaf, however this is only a short term problem now things have cooled down a little. Carrot and Parsnip volumes may also be effected.

Potato Warning

Although the effects are not being felt to date, there will be a serious impact on volume and quality of the 2010/11 crop if it doesn't rain in the next 2 to 3 weeks. Prices have already jumped over the last few weeks.





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Vegetables

Potatoes Old crop raw material for bakers is now in short supply due to the new season crop running behind schedule, new crop should be ready by late July. UK milds are in short supply due to the 2009/2010 crop having predominately large tubers. Red eye varieties such as Osprey will have to be used to cover the shortage till the new season is ready. Supplies of old crop chipping potatoes running low, new crop Premiere/Dundrod/Accord will not be available to mid July. The new season UK crop of salads is becoming more plentiful and of good quality.

Carrot & Parsnip New season UK will commence at the start of July, the quality is looking good but lack of rainfall is causing major concerns. Parsnips are currently Spanish but will switch over onto new season UK in the middle of July, again drought is a major concern.

Cauliflower No major supply issues are expected during July. Cauliflowers may bruise very easily due to the lack of rainfall so should be handled with care.

Broccoli All supply is now the new UK crop. Quality is generally good, however high weather temperatures are causing yellowing on the heads, this will continue for as long as the temperatures stay high. Advise - KEEP STOCKS TO A MINIMUM.

Cabbage New season Savoy cabbage is now available, but is currently light and fluffy, the quality is expected to be super as we reach the end of July. No issues are currently seen or expected on the green and red cabbage. New season crop of white cabbage will be slightly green in colour, as the month goes on the colouring will improve.

Onion Prices of the UK/Dutch cooking onion have stabilised but are still running at around double the price last year. Chilean is still good quality and prices have calmed down a little, Spanish should be with us over the next 4-6 weeks.

Salads

Aubergine The quality is excellent with no production problems.

Capsicums Low light levels experienced in May have created a gap in production effecting red and yellow capsicums. Reds have been traded at over 3 times their usual cost with the yellow capsicums close behind. Some green flashing is being seen but no quality problems to report. Green is in ample supply and of good quality but forecast to firm up.





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Tomatoes. Production levels are still below normal for the time of the year and expected to remain the same next 7 to 10 days. Although the weather is good, production is still on catch up from low light levels experienced in May.

Courgette Quality of UK is good and volumes are ample.

Cucumbers Production is reduced due to a crop changes in Holland but quality is ok and volumes should pick up over the coming weeks.

Leaf

Iceberg, Cos and Gems The quality is good, however some tip burn has been seen on the Cos which is attributed to low rainfall. There are ample volumes coming through.

Fancy Leaf A very similar story to above, UK production is well underway and the quality is good.

Celery The quality is good, with outdoor UK now well underway.

Fruit

Apples

Golden Delicious French supply is very tight but the quality is still good.

Red Predominantly South American fruit, Royal Gala & Red Delicious delivering good a quality eat.

Granny Smith South African Fruit is excellent.

Stone Fruit

Peach & Nectarine The Peach supply has been low, but Nectarine is plentiful, both eat very well.

Plum Spanish Santa Rosa is now underway and of good quality.

Melon

Honeydew Spanish season is ample and of good quality.

Galia & Cantaloupe Similar to Honeydew, the quality is good although some over ripe fruit being seen so please keep stock a little tighter.

Watermelons Short in supply as the new crop start, bigger sizes quite short, no quality problems to report.

Fruit

Citrus

Orange We have now moved fruit from Northern Hemisphere fruit to South African.

Lemon Spanish Verna has now finished with Argentineand Eureka lemon is looking really good.

Easy Peelers Peruvian Satsuma's are much improved in colour and eat really well.





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Banana Markets have seen high pricing building through June caused by a number of issues reported last month. The Ecuadorian Tungurahua volcano has effect production, not helped by storm damage in Guatemala. The Caribbean basin including Costa Rica have also reduced volumes due to heavy rains. The Ivory Coast is experiencing production issues and will not recover until October.

Soft Fruit

Berries

Strawberry Supply of UK will continue through July. Eating quality is fantastic, and this is set to continue. As we move through July we will see fruit starting to arrive from Scotland as the northern production reaches its peak. Varieties such as Evie 3, Albion & Elsinore will be seen. These varieties are usually darker in colour and eat fantastic. **Raspberries** are currently a mixture of Spanish and French. We will be moving production back to the UK at the end of the month. Varieties of Glen Ample and Erika will be supplied. These varieties are slightly larger but sometime a little tender but the eating quality is superb.

Blackberries Will be a mixture of Spanish and French fruit before moving onto UK fruit towards the end of the month. **Blueberry** Currently using USA and will be switching over to Polish berries in mid July. These berries will be larger, have more bloom on them and have a stronger taste than the USA's berry **Redcurrant** Will be moving to UK supply at the end of July from French.

Grapes

Green Egyptian Sagraone quality is looking good, albeit the sugar levels will be better as we move to Spanish Thompson at the end of July/August.

Red Egyptian flame eats fantastic, a much better eat than green. We will be moving to Californian flame at the end of July/August.

Exotics

Sugar Snaps & Mange Tout The quality has now improved for both lines, Sugar Snap production is still behind but Mange Tout production much improved

Beans Good quality from both Kenya and Morocco **Avocado's** are now moving from Peruvian Fueta to South Africa. Growing conditions in Thailand are ok but it is very hot. **Baby Corn** is good, with no issues. Supply of **Asparagus Tips** are reduced due to the heat. **Lemon Grass** is fine. **Butternut Squash** moving from South America back to the Mediterranean.. RSA **Baby Vegetables** volumes from South Africa are still low, Baby Leeks & Fennel are most effected by heavy rain.

Chillies now a mix of Kenyan and Moroccan with no quality problems to report, we may be able to move onto UK if weather conditions permit. **Sweet Potatoes** Honduran & USA, the quality good. **Figs** and **Mango** supply from Brazil is ample and the quality is good **Limes** have proved quite difficult, Brazilian production is low with expensive Mexican bridging the gap. **Garlic** is still very short, we have taken string garlic off the shelf and only supplying loose due to the level of sorting required. **Ginger** is new season and the quality is good. **Shallots** Cold store is more or less done with the new season now being seen (keep stocks tight).

