



MARKET NEWS

June 2010

Overview

Last month

The recent sunshine has helped crops catch up from the delayed planting earlier in the year. May saw below average rainfall across almost all of the UK, with less than 50% in many growing areas. The MET office has recorded May as the driest since 1998. Since then the much needed rain has fallen, improving the situation, albeit the heavy downpours have hampered cutting in the fields, with some damage caused to more delicate products such as fancy leaf.

In season and home grown:

UK Asparagus, Purple Sprouting Broccoli, Jersey Royals, Spring Greens, New season Leaf, Gems, Fancy Leaf, Cos & Iceberg and Spring Onions.

In season

Stone fruit -Cherries, Apricot, Peach and Nectarine are now underway.

Season Changes/ Difficulties

Savoy Cabbage- moving back to UK, Orange moving from Northern to Southern Hemisphere, Broccoli moving from Spanish to UK, Mangel-tout and Sugar Snaps are suffering from poor growing conditions.





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Vegetables

Potatoes. There are no issues to report with baking potatoes, quality and volumes are good, new crops are running late so the new season will be end of July/Aug for set skin product. UK mids supply is tightening up, but there should be sufficient raw material to last till the new season. As expected, salad potatoes have increased in value, due to exporting countries having poorer yields. European growers are also selling to Eastern Europe, this is due to the poor rate of exchange to UK. Less acreage has been planted for the 2010/2011 crop, due to the large crop of 2009/2010.

Carrot & Parsnip. The Scottish carrot season will finish mid June, the quality remains good but the shelf life is starting to deteriorate and this will be replaced with imports or new season UK depending on the weather. The UK parsnip season will finish mid June and will be replaced by imports from Spain new season English parsnips are not expected until mid July.

Cauliflower No major supply issues expected during June. Early crops grown under cover will have a reduced shelf life due to stresses caused by rapid growth under the polythene combined with hot weather. This may bruise more easily and should be handled with care. More rain is required, followed by warmer weather to aid crops for mid June and early July.

Broccoli The quality is good but volumes are still low, now moving into UK crop from Spanish, which is about 2/3 weeks late.

Cabbage. No issues are expected on the green cabbage new season crop which commences at the start of June. Spanish Savoy cabbage is now available but is currently light and fluffy, this should improve as the season progresses. UK Savoy is expected mid July. We are still advising that green and spring cabbage is used instead of the Savoy until the situation improves.

Onion Prices of UK/Dutch cooking onion have calmed down along with Chilean as prices have stifled demand and the anticipation of new season Spanish being available soon.

Salads

Aubergine Now Dutch and quality is good with normal production volumes.

Capsicums The quality and appearance of all colours is good. Dutch production is lower than expected which has led to some sudden price increases this week, product will remain a problem for another 1 to 2 weeks.





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Tomatoes. All varieties are experiencing a dip in production due to low light levels. Cherry tomatoes will be back to normal levels this weekend. The biggest problem is sizing and colour, availability of small 2m (47/57) fruit is limited and under colour fruit in general is a problem

Courgette Quality is fine from Spain but volumes are low. UK is still a week away.

Cucumbers Dutch are now underway with excellent quality, unwrapped product is now in stock.

Leaf

Iceberg, Cos and Gems Home grown crops are now underway and the quality is superb.

Fancy Leaf UK production is underway, sizes are good but the quality has been effected by waterlogged field this week.

Celery UK has started and the quality is excellent, head sizes will improve as season develops.

Fruit

Apples

Golden Delicious French supply is very tight but still doing a good job.

Red French Braeburn & Red Delicious are still doing a good job until South African Braeburn lands in around two weeks.

Granny Smith South African is now filtering through, the prices are high as northern hemisphere is all but done.

Stone Fruit

Peach & Nectarine The Spanish quality is excellent.

Plum South American (Chilean) fruit is now with us and of good quality.

Melon

Honeydew Spanish Almeria season is ending moving up to Murcia, some sugar spot is being detected.

Galia & Cantaloupe Similar to Honeydew, the quality also mixed as the change over happens.

Watermelons The Spanish Almeria season is delivering good quality, this will be moving to Murcia shortly.

Fruit

Citrus

Orange Currently European, however South African fruit will be with us by the end of June.

Lemon Spanish Verna remains good out of Spain, we do not expect any issues going forward into Argentine fruit.

Easy Peelers Peruvian Clementine's eat fantastic





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Banana Wholesale prices are rising due to a number of issues. Under reported problems in Ecuador with the Tungurahua volcano (yes another volcano) is expected to effect approx 40% of banana production. Storm damage in Guatemala also looks to have significantly reduced volumes. Other regions in the Caribbean basin including Costa Rica have also reduced volumes due to heavy rain. The Ivory Coast is also experiencing production issues and will not recover until October.

Soft Fruit Berries

Strawberry Dutch/Belgium (very expensive) fruit will continue into the 1st week of June but there after we should move to UK fruit for the rest of the month – this will be weather dependant. **Raspberries** a combination of Spanish/Mexican and some UK fruit as the weather improves. As we move through June volumes of the UK fruit will increase. **Blackberries** Now using Spanish and Portuguese fruit, which is of excellent eat quality. **Blueberry** Great quality Spanish fruit continues into early June and there will be the introduction of American fruit in mid.

Redcurrant French and Spanish fruit is due at the start of June, which is great news as we will be moving from long term stored fruit into fresh crop.

Grapes

White Finally moving from Indian Thompson at the start of June into Egyptian Superior, where early reports are showing a quality crop with no foreseen issues **Red** Once again the Chilean Crimson and Flame has excellent eat quality with good availability. We will be moving over onto Egyptian Flame at the end of June when the Chilean season comes to a end.

Exotics

Sugar Snaps & Mange Tout are still incredibly short in supply and the quality is struggling some what, we have taken Mange Tout off the shelf for a couple of weeks which will be back by 17th June as shelf life is too short to manage, Please be aware Sugar Snaps are also showing some waste after a day or two. **Beans** quality is improving, still short supply **Avocado's** are mainly Peruvian Fueta with some RSA. Growing conditions in Thailand are good and **Baby Corn** is good, with no issues. **Asparagus Tips** supply is quite short due to the heat, best use English. **Lemon Grass** is fine. **Butternut Squash** mainly Panamanian, of excellent quality excellent. RSA **Baby Vegetables** the growing conditions have improved although volumes are below average. **Chillies** have moved to Morocco from Kenya, with no quality problems, we may see English green towards the end of the month weather dependent. **Sweet Potatoes** Honduran & USA, the quality is good . **Figs, Limes** and **Mango** are from Brazil, Limes supply is tightening up, ample supply of figs and quality is good. Mango are also good. **Garlic** is still very short supply and expected to remain so. **Ginger** supply is easier as cured new season is now coming through, the quality is good.

Shallots Cold store is nearing the end, with anew season just around the corner.

