



MARKET NEWS

November 2009

Overview

Growing conditions in October worked out just right with temperatures in the UK as high as 20°C. October 2009 is now listed as the warmest since records began in 1659. This mild weather helped a smooth transition into the main Spanish season which is now underway.

We would like to give a big thanks for the excellent job our UK and Dutch growers have done for us this year, as we say goodbye until next summer.

In Season:

Brussels Sprouts (whole and prepared),

Chestnuts (cooked and loose)

Pumpkin (its not just for Halloween), Mixed Squashes,

UK Cooking Apples, Cranberries, White & Red Cabbage

Vegetables

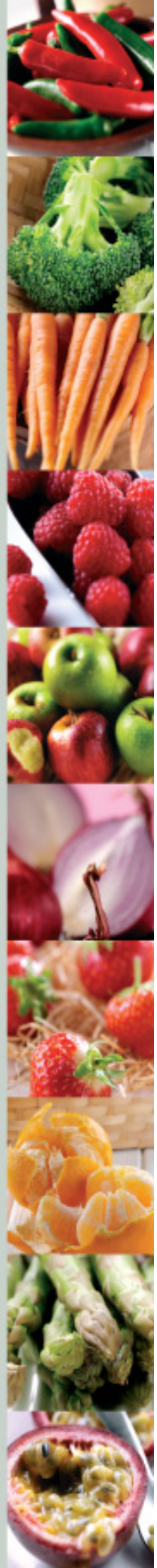
Potatoes Over all things are going well with current supply. All main crop has now been lifted and in store, some areas of the north west are still lifting varieties such as Nadine but this is now high risk. High dry matter material continues to cause concern due to the risk of bruising. Baking potatoes are good with no problems to report, supply of Mids potatoes are lower than other sizes and expected to remain so. Salad potato are plentiful and eating quality is great but a high proportion of scurf (scaring) has been seen. Concerns are now being raised over the quality of potato which was put in CA store for next year.

Carrot & Parsnip are both at their best.

Cauliflower Quality is good, main Lincolnshire crop is now slowing down, we are moving to slower grown varieties (Belot & Talbot) which should take us up to Christmas although Cornish will be ready mid November. Expect tighter curds with clasping leaves. No supply issues forecast.

Broccoli Last of the English now coming through. The move into Spanish crop is going well without issue.

All Cabbage Rain fall has helped, but continued low light levels typical of this time of year have slowed things down. White and Red cabbage is still being harvested, quality is excellent.





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Salads

Aubergine Quality is good without any problems, now in new season is Spanish.

Capsicums Quality is good, new season has commenced

Tomatoes The quality of new season is excellent with no problems

Courgette Problems associated with immaturity have now improved as the Spanish season develops.

Cucumbers Quality of Spanish crop is good with no real quality problems to report.

Leaf Head weight of Spanish Iceberg are at the lower end of the scale which is usual for early season. It will take a couple of weeks for the hearts to firm up, some water damage has been seen following rains in October but the weather is now much improved and expected to remain so.

Cos sizes are ok, again some water damage has been seen.

Spanish **Fancy leaf** is not quite ready yet so we are bridging the gap with French for a couple of weeks. Quality has been good but France also had rain, so some isolated breakdown has been seen.

Celery No problems to report, now moved to Spain.

Fruit

Apples

Golden Delicious French is now freely available and quality is good.

Red French Red Chief is going well with no issues

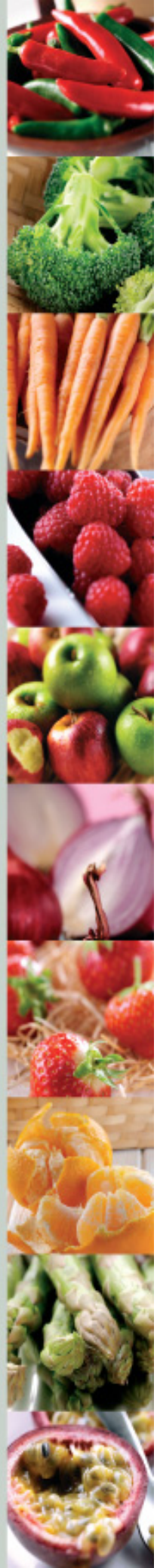
Granny Smith French supply and quality is great.

Stone Fruit

Peach & Nectarine Quality is poor and availability is nearly non-existent. We have removed from sale until Southern Hemisphere commences.

Plum Italian plum is still good as we move towards winter.

Melon Brazilian melon is going well with no real problems.





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Fruit

Citrus

Orange Prices remain high but expected to start falling into line as the Spanish season becomes established.

Lemon Main arrivals of Spanish lemons are now with us and quality will improve as we move out of de-greened fruit (force ripened).

Limes Cold problems in Brazil and Mexico have improved but prices have responded cautiously and still above the same period last year

Easy Peelers (Satsuma's and Clementine's) supply of Spanish fruit is now improving and eating well.

Banana Wholesale market prices are still stable with supply meeting demand. There are no problems expected

Soft Fruit

•Berries

Strawberry production will move from Holland to Egypt, the quality is good. **Raspberries** are from Tanzania, quality is also good. **Blackberries** from Mexico are coming through in more volume, no quality problems to report. **Blueberry** is moving to Argentina. **Redcurrant** is CA stored Dutch. USA **Cranberries** are now available and are fantastic.

•Grapes

•**White** Brazilian festival is now underway and quality is superb

•**Red** USA is still being shipped in to supplement the short fall from Brazil with some Italian coming through.

•Exotics

•Kenya has now seen some rain, **Sugar Snaps**, **Mange Tout** and **Bean** may show signs of pepper spot (rain damage) if the plants have been under stress from drought, mould can form if packed damp. **Avocado's** are Spanish and eating well. Thailand is currently in the rainy season which will effect availability of **Baby Corn**, **Lemon Grass** and **Asparagus Tips**. Greek **Butternut Squash** is now from stored crop, which is susceptible to mould. Italian is due around Christmas. RSA **Baby Vegetables** are good with no problems to report.

•**Sweet Potatoes** Have now moved to Israel. New season Brazilian **Figs** are now with us following a weeks gap. **Garlic** from China is down in volume almost 50% and prices are responding accordingly, also effected is **Ginger** but to a lesser extent.

