

September

Market News

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Overview

August was steady month with most people having to find the elusive sunshine abroad. It really was a mixed bag with Kent seeing highs of 30.3°C whilst the Highlands of Scotland got down as low as 1.4 °C. Rainfall followed a similar pattern with above average in Scotland and below average in the south.

The market place experienced its usual lull, with only the tourist areas seeing any real movement prior to UK industry getting back up to full strength as the holidays finish.

Seasonal changes

New season European apple and pear are now underway with the last of Southern hemisphere fruit travelling.

Current Challenges

•UK soft fruits are having a bit of a hard time with the variable weather, Dutch glasshouse will be seen this month as shelf life is poor.

Looking Forward

•As we head towards Autumn (22nd September) we will see our home grown products starting to drop off, such as fancy leaf and courgette and more traditional winter vegetable start.

In Season UK

- English Plum, Damson, Pear and Apple are at their best
- Purple sprouting Broccoli is now coming through
- Mixed Squashes, Peas & Beans, Fresh Corn on the cob
- New season Maris Piper are now coming through



Vegetables

Potatoes – General crop is healthy, tuber counts are low in number which indicates high baker content. Many growers are concentrating on loading the crops into stores. Eat quality on the bakers is excellent, varieties which will be supplied are Marfona, Harmony and Estima. The Maris Piper is from Shropshire and Lincolnshire, fry quality is good and dry matter is increasing. Now using Maris Peers from Norfolk on the Salads, skins are set and eat quality is very good. Supply on the UK Mids is adequate at the moment due to the early new crop being large, smaller tuber sizes are limited quality is good.

Carrot – Quality and supply is excellent.

Parsnip and Swede – Supply is now improving on the parsnip, quality is good. Quality of swede is good, with no problems expected.

Cauliflower – Lincolnshire production of cauliflower is going extremely well, with excellent quality heads being harvested.

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 and supply is good.

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

Salads

Aubergine – Quality from the Netherlands is good, volumes are reduced due to cooler/cloudier weather.

Capsicums - Crops are good quality but production is slowing. Green sizes will be more towards the bottom end of 70mm-90mm spec. Some flashing (mix colour) may be seen on Red and Yellow but overall quality good.

Tomatoes – Quality good. Production is starting to slow due to poor light levels and cooler nights.

Courgette – UK season is rapidly slowing due to poor weather.

Cucumbers – Dutch & UK quality is good, availability has slowed.

Celery - UK is very good with no supply issues.



Leaf

Iceberg, Cos and Gems – Quality and availability good production will slow as the UK hit colder weather, heavy rains may affect quality.

Fancy Leaf –UK crop starting to slow due to season.

Fruit

Apples

Golden Delicious – Last of southern hemisphere has now been seen. New season French is underway and quality is good, volumes will increase over the coming weeks.

Red Apple – French Gala has now started and the last of South African is coming through volumes will increase over the coming weeks.

Granny Smith – New season French and some Spanish era now available, they last of Southern hemisphere fruit has been seen.

Stone Fruit

Peach & Nectarine –fruit is now predominantly Italian, which should take us through into autumn. Both eat exceptionally well, varieties are August Red - Nectarine & Kaweah – Peach. Shelf life will dip off as the season ends.

Melon

Honeydew, Galia, Cantaloupe & Water - Spanish fruit is now drawing to an end, all melons currently eat fantastically as they are as ripe as they get, you may see some sugar spots as they reach the end of the shelf life. We expect to have changed to Brazilian fruit by week 38 (end Sept)

Citrus

Orange –Quality of fruit is good but volumes into UK are much reduced. Small fruit is extremely short and although larger sizes are a little easier the market is still in short supply

Lemon - Eureka is going well, they look very bright and have good juice content. Volumes are reduced due to season drawing to an end, Turkish will be seen in October and Spanish will start in November.

Easy Peelers – Peruvian Minneola, which are a good size and quality, are now bridging the gap until Spanish Satsuma's start at the end of the month.

Banana

Overall Quality is good. Fruit from Ecuador is very good quality and we have no problems to report. Dominican Republic have experienced a lot of rain and heavy winds caused by Hurricane Irene, some quality issues are being seen from the Caribbean and poor fruit is being graded out. Cameroon and Ivory Coast are experiencing cold weather which is reducing volumes being harvested.





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Soft Fruit

Berries

Strawberry – Early September volumes will be good assuming the weather is on our side, varieties will include Evie 2 & 3, Valour, Elsainor and Albion. Mid month will see reduced volumes & more of the darker Albion varieties. Late September will see Dutch fruit start.

Raspberries – September sees the start of the autumn varieties which are Polka, Tulameen, Octavia and Himbo. Volumes of UK fruit will start reducing and we may see some Spanish towards the end of the month, weather dependent.

Blackberries – UK production volumes will start to decrease rapidly as we enter September, the majority of the volume will be Dutch glasshouse fruit and toward the end of the month the first of the Guatemala Tupi variety fruit will arrive.

Blueberries – The poor harvest in Europe will make the month very difficult and expensive indeed. Dutch stores will be available along with polish fruit but it will very fragile. The first southern hemisphere fruit will be arriving later in the month which will run till next year, this will be a mix from Chile, Uruguay and Argentina.

Red Currants – Fruit will be UK stored for the first 2 weeks moving over to Dutch stored fruit.

Grapes

Green – Spanish Superior came to a end late August to be replaced by Greek Thompson, eat quality is fantastic.

Red – Spanish Crimson will be joined with Italian Crimson in September, supply and quality will be good.

Exotics

Sugar Snaps & Mange Tout - Kenya is still struggling with drought, supply mainly southern African countries.

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

Avocado - South African supply quality is good but availability poor.

Baby Corn - Availability and quality is good from Thailand.

Asparagus Tips –High temperatures in Thailand, availability low, keep stock tight due to limited shelf life

Butternut - Greek continues to go well, quality fantastic, may see some Spanish later on.

Baby Vegetables - South African production is still low. Fennel & Courgette very difficult. French supplies of **Baby Turnips** and **Beetroot** are improved and will move into October.

Chillies –Dutch now doing a good job, UK has not hit the quality.

Sweet Potatoes - USA continues well with good quality stored crop. Harvesting in progress and needs to cure before shipping in around 4 weeks.

Figs - Israeli & Moroccan airfreight is good but small. Turkish is on the road, crop reports indicate good quality with a soft edible skin and good colour.

Mango - Brazilian production is good with both Tommy Atkins, Keitt and Hayden available.

Limes - Brazilian is very good quality but supply has become very short due to late season.

Garlic - Good quality new crop Chinese is underway, prices still high.

Ginger – Quality good, new season Chinese underway.

Shallots - Good quality new crop French underway maybe some UK later in the year.

