

## market update



31 14NIIARY 2018

North Island

It's been another relatively quiet week for Hawkes Bay growers. There's still plenty of fruit to be harvested, but the bulk of nectarines have been picked, packed and purchased. The weather's been hot, so that suits peaches and plums just fine. Compared to last year, some are saying, pack outs are down but overall, it's been an okay season so far.

South Island

Central Otago fruit is eating well. Growers, pickers and pack house staff need a gold star for their hard work under immense pressure. It really goes without saying, the run of record-breaking hot days may affect fruit size, but the sugar levels are awesome. The predicted rain event at the end of the week will also be a big factor on the minds of everyone. As one old-time grower says, 'there are no straight lines in this game!'

cherries LOW MED HIGH

There are a few pallets left, trickling into the market. It's time for the last dance, before the lights go out for the season.

> Sweetheart/Staccato – from CO; the last few cherries will be around now – catch them if you can.

apricots LOW MED HIGH

Central Otago apricot supplies are starting to ease off now. There's about two weeks left until the end, but this week's predicted rain event could affect supply. It's a wait and see game at the moment. Lots of apricots are being pre-packed.

- Moorpark from CO; a little available. Not the greatest looking but it's a favourite for those who enjoy bottling.
- Clutha Series from CO; all but finished.
- > Nevis from CO; a late apricot. Starting now but will be subject to weather events later this week.

nectarines LOW MED HIGH

Central Otago nectarines are available now, in both yellow-flesh and white-flesh varieties. Some may see a fruit called Valentine around, these are a peach/nectarine cross – not a big fruit but really sweet, and also difficult to grow apparently!

- > Red Gold/Fantasia/August Fire/Orion/Venus/Summer Bright from CO; available now and all of next week.
- > Sweet August from HB; picking now, with big supplies next week.
- > Bright Pearl/Fire Pearl from CO; white-flesh. Available now.

peaches LOW MED HIGH

Golden peaches are playing a starring role this week. They look amazing, and with one bite, you're completely won over.

- Elegant Lady/Flamecrest/Glowing Star/Rome Star from CO; picking now and available next week.
- Coconut Ice/Otago Pink series from HB and CO; picking and packing now.
- ➤ Golden Belle/Golden Tatura/Tatura Star from HB; Good volumes for another two weeks.

plums Low Med **High** 

If you're a sugar plum fairy, you'll be dancing all day because there are so many delectable options to choose from. Flavour King pluots are around now; this fruit is a cross between a plum and an apricot.

- **Primetime** from HB; starting to lessen in volume now.
- Fortune from CO; Good volumes from Central Otago, but Hawke's Bay supplies will finish this week.
- > Greengage from CO: Small volumes but high prices expected. Strong export interest. Some will get to domestic markets.
- ➤ Black Doris from HB; selling well. It's a much-loved kiwi favourite.
- > Black Diamond from CO; available now. The Hawke's Bay's Black Diamond crop will be around for another week.
- > Omega from HB; available next week. Always sought after by many. Good size fruit will achieve good money.

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Note: The information supplied is based on communication with summerfruit growers, marketers, retailers and other relevant industry parties. Information supplied on cherries, apricots, nectarines, peaches and plums can alter after publishing due to unexpected weather events, market forces, and other events relevant to the industry. Seek daily advice on supply from your summerfruit supplier.

