



market update



23 November 2023

North Island

Having just read the update from this time last year it seems as though we are in a ground hog day situation. There has been sufficient winter chilling (1067 hours in Bay View, about 1200 hours in more inland areas) to set up good crop loads, although it was a little late to commence accumulation. Bud break timing was about normal for some crops but not others. Growing degree days (GDD) are similar to the last two years at around 350 units since September 1, although lower in Twyford at just under 300 units. Rainfall had been Ok if a little dry until this weekend just gone.

Many stonefruit trees have not set a full crop. If we get 75% of a normal full crop across all species that would count as a good result. The theory that I'm running with at present is that the lack of sunshine last season has led to low carbohydrate reserves in the buds, which have then fallen off as buds or immature fruitlets. Add that to three wet seasons and a cyclone and the trees will need a year to recover full health. At this stage the hot dry El Nino conditions are only present sporadically.

Next week potential evapotranspiration (PET) is predicted to be only in the 2-3 mm/day range with mild days and nights. The real kicker is the 100 or so mm of rain that is predicted for this coming weekend to add to the 50 mm that has fallen so far this week.

South Island

Marlborough has had a steady start to the growing season. Winter chilling was good (1198 units) and better than the previous two seasons. GDD is at about 300 units which is on par with what might be expected, rainfall over the last couple of months is low.

PET for the coming week is predicted to be only 1-2 mm/day with an occasional 3mm and not much rain. Temperatures will be mixed with a hot day as well as cooler nights. After the last couple of seasons this uneventful weather will be welcomed.

Central Otago has had normal and more than adequate winter chilling – as would be expected. The total is about 1500 units and more in Roxburgh and Ettrick. GDD is about 30 units behind normal at about 160 to 170 units. This backs up the thoughts that it's not an early season.

Crop loads are all good, with apricots making up for the poor set last season by having a very big set this time around. There has been lots of people employed for hand thinning.

cherries LOW MED HIGH

- Hawkes Bay has been picking early fruit for a couple of weeks now, in small volumes. This week's rain has caused splitting, particularly in varieties with low fruit set. Some blocks will be by-passed and we wait to see what happens to fruit that is due to come on stream next week. Rosann is picking now. Earlier areas will be looking to pick Chelan when the weather clears, followed by later areas in a week or so. More mainstream varieties such as Samba and Sonnet are two weeks away.
- Blenheim early season fruit has started with Earlise now, and Rosann in the coming days.
- Burlat from Central Otago has been in South Island stores for a week or so and this will continue, all be it in small volume. Chelan will be available next week.

apricots LOW MED HIGH

- Royal Rosa harvest will be soon, the end of this week or on the weekend if a weather window can be found.

nectarines LOW MED HIGH

- MayGlo (yellow fleshed classic) is well on its way, but not in the volumes of even last season as many trees didn't survive Cyclone Gabrielle. The white fleshed Polar Light is in stores, again in low volume.
- The May Glo that I have tasted have been good, better than I anticipated considering they are very early season varieties and we could do with some more sunshine. The next tranche of nectarines is probably a couple of weeks away

peaches LOW MED HIGH

- Spring Fire is a few days away from any meaningful volume and Springcrest another couple of days behind that.

plums LOW MED HIGH

- There will be no plums available for a while yet.

Market update by Richard Mills, Technical Advisor, Summerfruit NZ, email richard.mills@summerfruitnz.co.nz
 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.