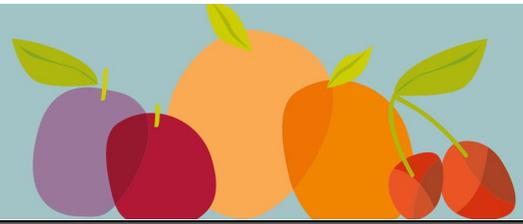




market update



27 February 2024

North Island

This week the market sentiment is softer again with a backlog of nectarines cited, as well as an abundance of other fresh fruit. The mix includes apples, watermelons, blueberries, grapes and citrus. Most of the Summerfruit looks very good, although the old school nectarines look pale when there is an abundance of choice. Quality fruit is needed when the market is full.

The last three weeks now have been perfect for fruit growing in Hawkes Bay, with no rain, and warm to hot temperatures without the higher temperatures lasting too long. At times there is a feeling that autumn is close and then the are days over 30°C. This pattern is set to carry on for another week with mild days and a hot day or two. Potential evapotranspiration will reflect the temperatures with a range of 2-6 mm/day.

South Island

Central Otago has accumulated growing degree days units at a normal pace as it moves into the last three weeks of harvest. There has been no real rain, but this is set to change by this time next week if forecasts are accurate. As autumn arrives temperatures will be a mixed bag with expectations for mild, cool and cold all within a week.

cherries

LOW

MED

HIGH

- Last week one of the local outlets had cherries for sale. This week it's two. These are in small display volumes but never-the-less available.

apricots

LOW

MED

HIGH

- Varieties being picked and packed include Nevis 180, and NZSummer3.
- Next week could be the end of any significant harvest, with fruit in the pipeline to move through after that. What was a big supply from Central Otago seems to have moved through the market well. More than twice the volume has been exported compared to this time last season which is helpful for NZ market returns.

nectarines

LOW

MED

HIGH

- The build up of supply that was seen last week has continued into this week.
- The last of Hawke's Bay August Fire will be available for a couple of weeks. From Central Otago there is classic and honey style fruit being harvested. Fantasia, Orion, Venus, Late Star and August Red in the early blocks, are all available.

Peaches

LOW

MED

HIGH

- Golden Belle, Tatura Star and Golden Flattos from Central Otago, and Tatura Star from Hawkes Bay are the golden peaches available. Traditional Golden Queens are not far away.
- Peacharines are finishing from Hawke's Bay and there is now supply from Central Otago. There is still Early O'Henry and small volumes of IP fruit making a few markets.
- Volumes of peaches other than Golden style are more limited now.

plums

LOW

MED

HIGH

- Last week's comment was that the plum market continues to improve, noting that there is still plenty available. This is still the situation. Varieties available include Freedom, Angelino, SunGold, Omega and Autumn Honey. There are a few Greengage to finish from Central Otago, with Fortune, Freedom and Black Doris now and Omega soon.
- Plums will be available for another month yet, with Candy Giant, Royal Star and Malone to come from Hawkes Bay.

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.