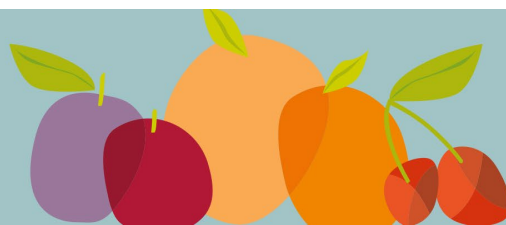




market update



23 November 2023

North Island

The week just gone in Hawkes Bay has left growers wanting for more sunshine and wondering what has happened to the forecast El Nino conditions. South and south westerly winds have dominated, and while the predicted 100 mm of rain didn't eventuate, there was 15-30mm with the larger volumes being closer to the coast. Many people had fires over the weekend to keep the family warm. The overnight low on Sunday was just 2.6°C. This has not helped fruit ripen nor develop good sugar levels. The growing degree day (GDD) accumulation reflects these conditions with only 321 units for Twyford, which is the lowest level of the last four seasons to this date. The week coming has mild and sometimes cool days, no significant rain and potential evapotranspiration (PET) of 3-4 mm/day. A bit more of the same really.

Some of the supermarkets in Hawkes Bay have a few cherries and some nectarines – but volumes are small. I have yet to see any apricots for sale, excepting one gate sale operation.

South Island

Marlborough is experiencing a continued steady season and has accumulated 326 GDD units. It's a bit dry, leaving the grape growers wanting a little rain as they go into flowering, but cherry growers are quite happy as they move into harvest. The forecast from Renwick suggests variable temperatures and a bit of rain around at the weekend.

The more northern growing areas in Central Otago are having a normal or slightly better start to this growing season. The Rockview station has accumulated 239 GDD units which is better than the last two seasons. Further south the totals are a bit flat leaving growers wanting more sunshine to ripen fruit. Like Blenheim the temperatures will not be hot, with cool evenings in Roxburgh and Ettrick. PET should be 3.5–5.0mm/day in Cromwell and Alexandra, and 3-4 mm/day in Roxburgh.

cherries

LOW

MED

HIGH

- Hawkes Bay has several varieties being picked now, depending on location. Sonnet, Dawson and Chelan are what is being harvested. Growers are lamenting the moderate level of fruit set.
- Blenheim growers are picking good sized clean fruit. Earlise and Rosann are being harvested now with some thought of Stella next week.
- Burlat and Earlise from Central Otago are in market with Fulfur due soon and Chelan a little after that. The firm crunchy cherries are at least two weeks away and will be in time for Christmas markets.

apricots

LOW

MED

HIGH

- Royal Rosa has been picked by some and is starting very soon for others. The same scenario is true for the other early varieties. Hawkes Bay volumes will again be low this season for early fruit, better for mid-season and potentially better again for late season varieties. Central Otago will have good volume but we will need to wait for them to ripen next year.

nectarines

LOW

MED

HIGH

- The last Mayglo is being picked and packed now. The white fleshed Polar Light volumes are picking up a little with harvest about 2/3rds completed.
- Armredark will start in the early locations at the weekend.
- Rose Diamond is about a week away, volumes will be back on normal. Spring Bright will be ready in time for Christmas week.

peaches

LOW

MED

HIGH

- The first Springcrest is in bins and heading to packhouses, again the crop volumes are lighter than normally anticipated.
- Spring Fire needs a few more days yet and might be picked at the weekend.

plums

LOW

MED

HIGH

- Red Beaut is still a few days away from harvest. Other early season varieties will follow after this with Rose Zee anticipated in about 10 days.

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.