



North Island

It's been a nice start to the Hawkes Bay's summerfruit season. The fruit coming off those healthy trees is looking lovely and eating beautifully. The harvest is about seven days ahead of last year. The weather is a little changeable but nothing that's worrying growers at the moment. Generally things are going well for this much anticipated time of the year for growers and pack houses alike. All industry players currently have good staff numbers to cope with the work to be done. Retailers are in for some great fruit to sell.

South Island

Our people on the ground report that the weather's been incredible for growing. Orchardists have enjoyed some of the highest degree growing days for some years. It's a real positive outlook. Roxburgh township suffered flash flooding last week, but only some crops were affected. Everyone is gearing up and ready to get on with getting that fruit off the trees and onto the trucks – when it's ripe, of course!

cherries

LOW

MED

HIGH

Consumers are falling in love with these little beauties all over again. The timing of all three regions is looking good, with a nice flow of cherries available right through to Christmas. Cherries are being snapped up by consumers. Growers are very happy with retail prices – ranging from \$22 - \$36 per kg – depending on size. Blenheim's crops start picking this week. South Island cherries have matured in an incredibly kind season. The recent rain in Roxburgh has affected only some of the crop, but other Central Otago areas are all business as usual. Overall, a really positive outlook for growers, marketers and consumers.

- **Roseann** – picking now, and will continue for another week.
- **Sonnet, Santina, Stella, Lapins** – ready to roll next week.
- **Rainier, Ferrador** – from HB white flesh, pale red skin. Started this week. Will go for another 10 – 14 days.
- **Santina, Chelan** – from CO; picking next week.

apricots

LOW

MED

HIGH

Apricots are making us all feel summery again. Prepacks are doing well in store. Lots more varieties will be available during December. At retail, some days saw prices at \$8 per kg, but now, that seems to have settled back to around the \$6/kg mark.

- **Royal Rosa** – from HB; good crop, solid supply now and steady for at least another two weeks. Get them while you can.
- **Sundrop** – from HB; will be available in two weeks. Some crops a little light, but a good supply available.

nectarines

LOW

MED

HIGH

Nectarines, nectarines and more nectarines for Christmas! Marketers are telling us there'll be more pre-Christmas nectarines than last year, but fewer post-Christmas – mainly because fruit maturity is seven days ahead of last year and the volumes are about the same as last season. Demand will be huge. The early nectarine, Mayglo, is all finished. All gobbled up!

- **Rose Diamond** – from HB; a light crop this year.
- **Early Star/Classic** – from HB; harvest starts mid to late next week, and will drift into Christmas week. Everyone seems to love this yellow-flesh, dark red skinned variety.

peaches

LOW

MED

HIGH

Steady supplies from now on, although crop volumes look a little down compared to last season. Peaches to be harvested after Christmas are looking a bit heavier.

- **Spring Crest** – from HB; yellow flesh, currently being harvested.
- **Spring Lady** – from HB; just harvesting now, average profile.
- **Spring White / Spring Bright** – from HB; picking now. Lighter crops have resulted in bigger sized fruit.
- **Spring Fire** – from HB; a full heavy crop, picking now.

plums

LOW

MED

HIGH

Delicious plums are now hitting the stores. Plum crops are heavy and are sizing up well down on the orchards. Harvests are building up, and there's a lot to keep plum lovers enticed over the coming harvest months. We'll keep you updated, of course!

- **Red Beaut, Rose Zee** – from HB; going steady.
- **Purple Majesty** – from HB; picking at the end of next week.
The forecast is that 20 – 30% of the crop will be available Christmas week.
- **Fortune** – from HB; heavy crop, good quality. Will be available before Christmas.

Market update by Denise Landow, NZ Market Reporter, Summerfruit New Zealand, email denise@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.

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