



North Island	It's turning into a typical Hawkes Bay February. Day time temperatures are reaching the mid-20s and the nights are cooler. There's a bit of a lull, and the big crops yet to be harvested are Golden Queen peaches and Royal Star plums. Some niche varieties are making their way to markets now, including Valentine, which is a peacharine/nectarine cross. They're difficult to grow, so try them and see how they taste.
South Island	The days are certainly cooler, and the nights more so – a relief for Central Otago growers. The respite is being enjoyed by everyone, especially the trees. The cooler weather will slow down the ripening process, which will give the fruit better flavours and the ability to stand up to handling and transport to markets all over the country. It's certainly been a testing season for even the most experienced of growers.

cherries	LOW	MED	HIGH
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I've heard there may be a last few pallets left making it into markets, but you may need a treasure map to find them.

- **Sweetheart/Staccato** – from CO; in reality – the season has finished.

apricots	LOW	MED	HIGH
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Lots of apricots are being pre-packed but the season's all but over for these golden goodies. An early finish as a result of perhaps one of the warmest summers ever.

- **Moorpark** – from CO; late Moorparks will be in circulation for this week and next week.
- **Clutha Series** – from CO; a few around next week.
- **Nevis** – from CO; still picking, and will be available for another 10 days.

nectarines	LOW	MED	HIGH
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Central Otago nectarines are generally of good size, and have handled the weather well. The fruit has come on quickly.

- **Fantasia/August Fire/Orion/Venus/Summer Bright** – from CO; available now, and for another two weeks.
- **BonBon** – from CO; picking now and will go for another three weeks.
- **Sweet August** – from HB; available now.
- **Bright Pearl/Fire Pearl/Zephyr** – from CO; white-flesh. Still available but will finish next week.

peaches	LOW	MED	HIGH
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Peaches seem to be moving through the markets well. The heat has really secured those high brix levels this season. Central Otago's Golden Belles will come on next week. Hawkes Bay's Golden Queens will be picking in about two weeks.

- **Elegant Lady/Flamecrest/Rome Star** – from CO; Good volumes for next week.
- **Coconut Ice/Otago Pink series/Scarlett O'Hara** – from CO; available in markets.
- **Golden Belle/Golden Tatura/Tatura Star** – from HB; the last of Bay's crops are around now.
- **Early O'Henry** – from CO; harvesting over next few days.
- **Plus Plus** – from CO; harvesting next week.

plums	LOW	MED	HIGH
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If you're a bit over giving your sweetheart roses for Valentine's Day – how about presenting that special person with a selection of plums? Hey, it's just an idea – and it would make for a truly unexpected surprise.

- **Autumn Honey** – from HB; a new variety, small amount available. Will grow in volume year-on-year from now on.
- **Humdinger** – from HB; good size fruit, and available now.
- **Omega** – from Gisborne and HB; more available from this weekend. Fruit size is looking good.
- **Primetime/Black Doris/Fortune** – from HB; finishing this week. Central Otago Fortunes finishing late next week.
- **Greengage** – from CO: Some will get to domestic markets but much will be exported.
- **Freedom** – from CO; some available now but will pick up over next few weeks.
- **Angelino** – from HB; available for another two weeks.

