



22 FEBRUARY 2018

North Island

A run of five settled days with 32° temperatures and warm humid nights was affecting the mood of many residents in Hawkes Bay. Orchard trees must be feeling the relief of the southerly change's respite too. Not much in the way of fruit on the trees now, so retailers are urged to keep summerfruit at the front of stores because the season's about to end in a few weeks.

South Island

Central Otago got two days of heavy rain, and it doesn't appear to have caused any major headaches. The drop in daytime temperatures has slowed the ripening process, which is a good thing for all. The cooler temperatures are, if anything, extending the season a little bit.

cherries

The cherry season has now finished.

apricots

LOW

MED

HIGH

A tiny amount of apricots is in the market this week – that will be the absolute last of Central Otago apricots for this season.

- **Nevis** – from CO; a few remaining boxes around this week only.
- **Conroy** – from CO; will be in the markets for another five days.

nectarines

LOW

MED

HIGH

There are some new varieties now on the market from Central Otago. Supply will be tight for the next two weeks, which means prices will be firm.

- **Summer Bright** – from CO; will finish this week.
- **Bon Bon** – from CO; picking now, available for another 10 days at least.
- **August Red/August Fire** – from CO; picking but limited product available for the market.
- **Summer Blush** – from CO; white flesh nectarine. Expecting to start picking early next week.

peaches

LOW

MED

HIGH

Golden Queen peaches from Hawkes Bay are being picked now. With the tricky weather patterns over the last few weeks the poor little things don't know what's going on – maturity is all over the place. This means that growers will pick the same orchard block up to six times – rather than the usual two or three times.

- **Cal Red** – from CO; limited supplies available.
- **Southern Ice (Otago Pink series)** – from CO; white-flesh. To be picked over the weekend, and will be available for 10 days.
- **Golden Queen** – from HB; picking now. Will go for up to two weeks.
- **Tatura Star/Golden Tatura** – from CO; selling for another 10 days.
- **Plus Plus** – from CO; picking now, will be in markets for 14 days.
- **Black Boy** – from HB; a niche peach, still in markets this week.
- **Peacharines** – from Mangaweka and Waitaki in CO; harvesting now in light volumes.

plums

LOW

MED

HIGH

It's nice to know that with all this crazy hot and humid weather, plums are doing just fine. Supplies are getting tighter as the season's end draws ever closer, however, one of the country's biggest plum crops, Royal Star, is just starting now. Big volumes over the next few weeks. The fruit is very large, purple/black in appearance with red flesh. Stand-out eye appeal for sure.

- **Royal Star** – from HB; starting in light volumes next week, but building through the next four weeks.
- **Omega** – from HB and CO; available for at least another two weeks. Achieving good prices.
- **Fortune** – from CO; all picked but is still in transit to markets.
- **Freedom** – from HB and CO; available this week.
- **Angelino** – from HB and CO; available this week.

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.

