



North Island	Even though this summerfruit season is three weeks early, a number of Hawkes Bay orchards still have fruit maturing on their trees, mainly Golden Queen peaches, Golden King peaches, Beryl's Delight peaches and Royal Star plums. The days of 30° temperatures are turning to cooler days in the 20°s. It's been 10 days since any significant rain, and pickers and pack houses have good clean fruit to work with.
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South Island	The bulk of Central Otago's crops have been picked, but as with Hawkes Bay, there are still some orchards with fruit on trees. Harvesting programmes are going to make the most of what's left of the season. Growers have been getting some wonderful feedback from consumers through their websites. One grower told me he's never had so many emails before, and it's nice to know what people are experiencing – especially because once the fruit leaves the orchard gate, it goes to out to the wild blue yonder.
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cherries

The cherry season has now finished.

apricots

LOW **MED** **HIGH**

One Central Otago orchard is still picking apricots this week – a proud grower of a late variety wants me to share this! Quite right too – we celebrate all that hard-work going on in Central Otago.

- **Nevis** – from CO; available this week and next week in very limited numbers.

nectarines

LOW **MED** **HIGH**

Get your nectarines out on display while you can because they are being picked, packed and purchased with gusto.

- **Bon Bon** – from CO; yellow-flesh. Will be in the market for another week.
- **August Red/August Fire** – from CO; limited product available for the market.
- **Summer Blush** – from CO; picking now, but in limited supplies.

peaches

LOW **MED** **HIGH**

Maturity is a mixed bag for Hawkes Bay Golden Queens. A good third of the crop is still to be picked – they're proving to be a bit slower at the moment. Nice, clean fruit from growers. Peacharines from both North and South Island growers are in markets now.

- **Cal Red** – from CO; yellow-flesh. Started picking now, will go into next week.
- **Southern Ice (Otago Pink series)** – from CO; white-flesh. Will be in the system for another week.
- **Golden Queen** – from HB; picking now. Available all next week.
- **Golden Tatura** – from CO; last lots all picked, getting packed over the weekend.
- **Plus Plus** – from CO; picking now, will be in markets this week only.
- **Peacharines** – from Mangaweka, North Island and CO; in markets now.

plums

LOW **MED** **HIGH**

The late-season plum crop, Royal Star, is just starting now. Plum prices are firming up, as volumes tighten in line with the season's early finish.

- **Royal Star** – from HB; harvest has started. Good volumes for two to three weeks. Average fruit size is a nice 55mm.
- **Omega** – from HB and CO; last two weeks for these favourites now. Achieving good prices.
- **Songold** – from CO; yellow-flesh. Available for two to three weeks. Glorious yellow colour – a real stand out.
- **Freedom** – from HB and CO; available for at least two weeks from today.
- **Angelino** – from HB and CO; available this week, and next week but in limited volumes.

