



## North Island

Hawke's Bay had 20mm of rain last night (Monday) and has dribs and drabs predicted for the coming week. Growers spoken to are delighted with the rain – enough to do some good without doing any damage. We will need to keep an eye on the disease models for the next wee while. Temperatures will be mild which will continue to temper the harvesting. Major markets, Auckland and Hamilton, look to be having a good weather week coming and no rain in Wellington either. Controlled supply and potential increased demand are factors leading to smooth sales and pretty good prices.

Growing Degree Days continues to be good in the northern parts of Hawke's Bay, but has dipped towards normal in the other areas. PET in the coming weeks looks to be gentle at 3-4mm/day.

One of my colleagues has commented on some poor handling practices in store; rough handling and fruit stacked in too many layers. Handling guides are available if staff need a refresher course.

New season apples have started and there are summer pears readily available, if still a little green. There are plenty of the other soft fruits; strawberry, raspberry, blueberry, blackberry and boysenberry to compete with our cherries.

## South Island

Growing Degree Days in Central Otago are still poor, but this week will be much better with good temperatures and PET of 5+mm/day anticipated. With Chinese New Year around the corner the timing is good news for cherry growers. Some of the growers will be finished cherry harvest in a week, others in a couple of weeks and others will be there for a bit longer. The normal harvest patterns from the area have been scrambled so it's hard to figure out what is really going on.

## cherries

LOW

MED

HIGH

- My look around the supermarkets has shown some truly awful offerings of cherries. All the loose fruit was tired, with rots and oozing fruit, needing to be thrown away and started fresh. Does this reflect short supply and higher prices?
- Varieties available include some Lapins and Stella; plus Kordia, Summit, Skeena and Sweetheart. Staccato is still to come.

## apricots

LOW

MED

HIGH

- Central Otago is generally still slow to get going. Sundrop is starting to be skim picked along with some Clutha Sun and Dunstan. Some supermarkets have good supply while others are having no backup supplies.
- Clutha Gold is still sometime away.

## nectarines

LOW

MED

HIGH

- Overall nectarines are balanced to slightly short on supply with good eating quality fruit the norm.
- Varieties available include the last of the Firebrite plus Sunglo, Grand Candy, Hunny Royale. Kay Pearl and Chrystal are nearly finished. The Hail Heroes' promotion is reported to be going well, as the fruit inside the bags is sweet and juicy. Repeat purchases are occurring.
- Next week we will see Venus, Red Gold, Fantasia, and Hunny Glo. August Fire is two weeks away. Late Star will bring good volume of good-sized fruit to the market next week. There may be a little White Pearl and Bright Pearl soon.
- Central Otago is picking some Diamond Bright.

## peaches

LOW

MED

HIGH

- Peach supply is reasonable and on occasion, slightly tight. White & yellow types are substituting for each other. Central Otago supply, in any volume, is probably two weeks away.
- I have seen Golden Belle in the shops, although some of them could have done with an extra day or two on the tree. The main supply is slightly delayed due to the cooler temperatures being experienced in Hawke's Bay. Next week supply should be good with some large fruit available.
- Scarlet O'Hara in the packhouse next door were looking big and beautiful and ate very well.
- Sweet Dream, Tropical Candy and Velvet Sister is nearing the end of supply, Flamecrest is starting soon.
- Doris, Blazing Star, Velvet Star and Coconut Ice may be available next week.

## plums

LOW

MED

HIGH

- The plum season is now well under way with the good quality varieties now widely available.
- Purple Majesty and Black Amber are coming to their end. Amber Jewel, Fortune and Primetime are being picked now.
- Some Doris and Billington are anticipated next week.