



market update



21 January 2020

North Island	<p>Hawke's Bay has continued with cloudy but mainly dry weather, although different areas have had more rain than others. The GDD are now normal compared to the last four seasons unless you are growing further inland, less influenced by the south-easterly pattern. I have taken the opportunity to eat a bit of recently harvested fruit anticipating lower sugar levels but there seems to be no issues.</p> <p>Once the next couple of days have passed the temperatures are predicted to be a return to a hot summer which should bode well for the push to the conclusion of the main part of the Hawke's Bay season. PET for the next few days will be around 3.8-4 mm/day and then rising again.</p>
South Island	<p>Central Otago has (for this last week) seen a return to a more traditional hot summer without the over the top temperatures of the 2017-18 season. This seems to be a great omen for the last two weeks of cherry harvest as we look forward to the later apricot varieties and the real start of the peach and nectarine season. GDD accumulation, which has been slow up till now, has picked up and the slope of the graph is as strong as the 2017-18 year. And the Ettrick weather station now has GDD in the middle of the band from the last five years. PET is anticipated to be in the 3.8-5.5 mm/day for the next period. Some rain is again suggested for later in the week, but we shall see.</p>

cherries	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cherry supply to the major markets is telling slightly different stories with the supply approaching full for some and a bit tight in others. Lapins, Skeena, Sweetheart and Staccato are being harvested still in some places while other growers are finished for the season. Sentennial has yet to get started. Quality is now very good at reasonable prices. I bought some TAG2 fruit in a punnet today with a slightly skeptical eye and have been delighted with the eating experience. ➤ By the end of January there will only be cool stored product remaining. 			
apricots	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There are good volumes of large, clean good eating apricots that seem to have travelled well. The fruit I have seen today looked spectacular. ➤ Sundrop as well as Clutha Sun and Clutha Gem are finishing, with Clutha Gold and Vulcan starting soon and with the temperatures being experienced now, the maturity may come along apace. Export is reputed to be strong. ➤ Volume increases could be seen in the next week or so. 			
nectarines	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There are good volumes of both the classic style and the newer sweet full red varieties. Demand is strong and the market not in over supply. Hawke's Bay is starting to think about the end of the season and Central Otago is about to increase supply. There will be supply from both regions for a while. ➤ Classic varieties such as Firebrite, Venus and Sunglo are finishing, Red Gold is in full swing and Fantasia is about to start in some orchards. Mid Star and Hunny Royale supply is coming to its natural end with Late Star starting now. The fruit that I've seen is big and will eat very well. There is just a little White Pearl and Fire Pearl to sell, then the whites from Hawke's Bay are done. Big Bang and Diamond Bright are being harvested in Central Otago. Expect some Queen Giant later this week. Some Spring Bright will be picked soon. 			
peaches	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Volumes of melting texture Hawke's Bay peaches are declining while the Golden peach supply is winding up. Golden Belle is the variety available now with the other two to follow. The fruit is looking good and can make a very attractive display when done well. There may be some Rom Star, Velvet Sister and Flamecrest to sell. Elegant Lady and Scarlet O'Hara should be available for another week or more. Hunny Royale, Grand Candy and Hunny Glo will be around for a while yet perhaps 2-3 weeks. We are expecting Coconut Ice to start very soon. There are a few Peacharines around now, but the real volumes are a little way off yet. ➤ From Central Otago there is a little Mallow Yellow and Blazing Star with Rich lady about a week away. 			
plums	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rose Zee from Central Otago is finishing now and Fortune is 7-10 days away. Fortune and Purple Majesty are available, Primetime is being harvested bigtime in Hawke's Bay. These two varieties will be available for a few weeks yet. Amber Jewel is a good one to look out for and might be worth a separate display. Black Doris is about to get underway and I understand that this variety is already well under way from Kumeu. 			

Market update by Richard Mills, NZ Market Support, Summerfruit New Zealand, email richard.mills@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.