



market update



28 January 2020

North Island	<p>As suggested last week, Hawke's Bay has been hot, 34°C on my home thermometer, and is expected to stay at these levels as the majority of the summerfruit from this region comes towards the end of harvest. Plums, which are in full swing now, will benefit from the hot conditions as long as we can keep them watered. Some parts of the region are now back to equal best growing degree days and the other areas, I suspect, will be there by this time next week.</p> <p>Water the trees and look after the people in the orchard with up to 6.5mm/day of PET anticipated.</p> <p>Big volumes of Gisborne Royal Gala apples have arrived in the market. Traditionally this does not disrupt summerfruit too much but there is always a degree of nervousness.</p>
South Island	<p>Like Hawke's Bay, Central Otago is also expecting up to 6.5mm of PET per day so the same message would apply. GDD are now looking towards normal levels with some good catch up in the last week. Night time temperatures are cool which is helping moderate the speed of harvest.</p> <p>In general terms it seems that the fade out of Hawke's Bay peaches and nectarines is being matched with the wind up of Central Otago fruit.</p>

cherries	LOW	MED	HIGH
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➤ There are just a few growers with any fruit remaining to pick. A little Staccato and Sweetheart perhaps and Sentennial will round out the season. Major markets will have cherries available for the next week, although some are expecting only 'drips and drabs'.

apricots	LOW	MED	HIGH
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➤ There are reasonable volumes of very good quality apricots for sale and are retailing at firm prices. Export is reputed to be quite strong at the moment which is providing competition for the New Zealand market. Retail seems happy at one level in that the wastage is very low.

➤ Varieties being picked include Sundrop which will soon close out, plus Cluthagold, Vulcan, Moorpark and Valley Gold.

nectarines	LOW	MED	HIGH
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➤ Nectarine sales are going well, perhaps now even ahead of last season in volume and prices are holding.

➤ I expect that all the classic varieties; Fantasia, Red Gold, Orin from Hawke's Bay will be finished by the end of the week and the yellow sweet varieties are not too far off a finish as well. There will be Late Star and more in a week, maybe less. There is some Majestic Pearl around, and Bradford Pearl will start soon.

➤ August Fire could start harvest mid next week.

➤ From Central Otago; early Queen Giant and Spring Red have been and gone – there may be a hole in supply until the next varieties are ready. The white fleshed Kay Pearl harvest has started.

➤ Generally, there is not too much coming out of Central yet.

peaches	LOW	MED	HIGH
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➤ The major offering from Hawke's Bay is now of Coconut Ice and Golden Belle, both of which are looking good and eating very well. The demand for Golden peaches is strong and the supply reasonable. Tatura Star will be the next cab off the rank and carry this style forward for another two weeks.

➤ The sweet Tropical Candy and Sweet Dream will be all gone shortly. Scarlet O'Hara supply is finishing, Elegant Lady is in full swing and Coconut Ice is progressing well.

➤ From Central Otago there is some Grand Candy, Mellow Yellow and Rich Lady with Flatto to come next week.

plums	LOW	MED	HIGH
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➤ Hawke's Bay plums are in full swing still and will be for a while with volumes continuing to build. This could be the species that we need to seriously look at for export in the near future.

➤ Fortune is now coming out of Central Otago, and from Hawke's Bay there is Primetime, Black and Red Doris, and Amber Jewel. Next up will be Flavor King and Omega in a week or so. Gisborne Omega is under way.

➤ A new plum to keep an eye on is Flavor Blast from next week. From its reputation I'll be keen to get hold of a couple to test. After this we are looking to supplies of Angelino.

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.