



market update



4 February 2020

North Island

The continuing hot temperatures are hampering people moving about but the fruit seems to be packing okay. The caution is that it will soften rapidly, so the removal of field heat as completely and quickly as possible is urged. The higher temperatures have hastened harvest.

PET is expected to be in the 5-6mm/day region for the next few days and I have had no significant rain since 13 January. Taking water from the rivers has now been stopped. The GDD is now back to normal after an overcast period in mid-January. The coming week seems to be gentler temperature wise.

Berry fruit are still in plentiful supply and Royal Gala apples are on promotion.

South Island

Coronavirus is clearly influencing consumers across Asia, and consequently, all exports to some degree. Fortunately, the bulk of cherry sales were well through in advance of Chinese New Year and the coronavirus outbreak. Generally Asian markets are now very cautious, and Chile is sending product to markets other than China. As a result, there has been some cherries that have not been loaded on to the planes that will come onto a reasonably short New Zealand market.

Central Otago has received a significant amount of rain, 55mm in places, and it's set to continue (as of Tuesday lunchtime). Picking has stopped. Orchards have been able to get covers on before the rain and will do so again when the rain ceases. Apricots and peaches will have some cosmetic damage; the extent of this will be evaluated later in the week. The fade out of Hawke's Bay peach and nectarine is not quite being matched with the wind up of Central Otago fruit, especially nectarines. GDD are back to normal but there is some suggestion that the crops are still behind a 'normal' harvest period.

cherries

LOW

MED

HIGH

- Just the last of the fruit to be sold. This week will see most of the volume moved, however, there seems to be some reluctance to continue buying cherries. Factors include fatigue from consumers, Lotto building again and parents buying stationery for the children.

apricots

LOW

MED

HIGH

- Supply and demand at this point are reasonably balanced, prices around the country are a bit variable and tending to be better where export quality fruit is being offered.
- The last of the Sundrop is in market now along with Cluthagold, Vulcan, Moorpark, Valley Gold and now Kyoto. A skim pick of Nevis 160 will start when the rain stops, but not really kick in for a bit longer yet.

nectarines

LOW

MED

HIGH

- Supplies are a bit tight, and the expected flow from Central Otago has not quite started. Some are not expecting any volume until the weekend. Supplies from Hawke's Bay of Hunny and Pearl style nectarines are almost done. August Fire will be available soon, perhaps seven days away.
- Varieties available from Central Otago include Big Orange, Red Diamond, Summer Bright and some Mid Star. There should be Red Gold, Grand Candy and Venus at the end of the week. Look forward to more Venus, Fire Pearl and Orin early next week.

peaches

LOW

MED

HIGH

- The major offering from Hawke's Bay is now Coconut Ice, Tatura Belle and Star, and Peacharines. Everything else is finished.
- From Central Otago Improved Flavorcrest, Lady Red, Rome Star, Glowing Star, Sweet Dream, Rich Lady, Blazing Star, Tropical Candy, Flatto and Flamecrest are available. Flatto Gold is not too far away. There is lots of variety but not yet lots of volume from Central.

plums

LOW

MED

HIGH

- The plum market is presently described as flooded, size back on desired and moving slowly.
- Varieties available include Primetime, Black and Red Doris, Burbank, Maria Louisa, Purple King, Freedom and volumes of Fortune from Central Otago. Angeleno will be with us very soon and Flavour Blast, Flavour King and Humdinger a little after that.
- A little Greengage will be picked post rain in Central Otago, and Autumn Hunny from Hawke's Bay is about a week away.

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.