



# market update



2 DECEMBER 2020

<b>North Island</b>	<p>The dry July (52mm), August (30mm), September (37mm) and October (48mm) months have given way to a wet and overcast last three weeks of November with 134mm at my place near Hastings. This helps to explain the good eating quality of the very early nectarine and apricots. Growing degree days (GDD) are still significantly up on last season and harvest is still slightly ahead. Some sunny days would now be appreciated for the farmers as well as fruit and vegetable growers. La Niña seems to be a happening thing!</p> <p>There is not much rain in the forecast, with warm temperatures and high potential evapotranspiration, PET, rates for the coming week.</p>
<b>South Island</b>	<p>GDD are still accumulating very well in Central Otago, and to my relief are sitting lower than the 2017-18 season which brought on a stupidly early season. A couple of near frosts has helped bring the earliness of the season back to a more respectable 4-7 days ahead of normal.</p> <p>Export of Marlborough cherries is now deemed to be too risky due to the amount of rain. 124mm for November has split perhaps a quarter of the cherries that could have been picked and sold to date. There are bits of rain anticipated next week but there could be a few days of high PET at the weeks end.</p> <p>No apricot, peach, nectarine or plum supply yet.</p> <p>We have questioned the information from the Clyde weather station, and it has been disabled for the time being. For the week coming we are expecting good but not hot temperatures with reasonably high PET of 4mm+ and little rain for the Central Otago region.</p>

<b>cherries</b>	LOW	MED	HIGH
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- Early cherries such as Burlat and Earlise have been available in Central Otago for a couple of weeks now and were eating very nicely. The first picks of firmer fruit such as Chelan are due to start at the beginning of next week.
- Marlborough is near the end of Rosann, with Santina and Sonnet being picked now. Lapins and Stella are a week away. Fruit is reported to be eating well and with good size.
- Like Blenheim, Hawke's Bay is finishing Rosann, and picking Sonnet and Santina with some Dawson due to be picked at the weekend.

<b>apricots</b>	LOW	MED	HIGH
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- The earliest variety Royal Rosa is nearly finished and has been in short supply, partly due to the removal of a few blocks but mostly due to rain causing splitting. More of this variety has been sold in punnets which helps get it to market with less blemish. There will be a hole in the apricot market until Sundrop starts in 10 days' time.
- I have a wee new variety evaluation to do later today comparing some new offerings in this space. Royal Rosa, Rogercot, Saltaire Special and Nzsummer4.

<b>nectarines</b>	LOW	MED	HIGH
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- Mayglo is now finishing its run. Due to the dry early and mid-spring this variety has performed better than usual with buyers complimenting the flavour and size. There might be a little Armredark still to clear. The next mainstream variety, Rose Diamond is now under way. The Polar Light that I mentioned last time has now finished and was well received.
- Early Star will start next week but will take a while for the pipeline to fill up.

<b>peaches</b>	LOW	MED	HIGH
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- Early blocks of Spring Fire are underway with very small volumes available. The yellow-flesh Spring Crest and Spring White are finishing harvest and will be clearing the market soon. We are anticipating moderate volumes of June and Spring Lady to start sometime next week. Next week could also see Rich Lady, Coraline and the first of the Donut peaches.

<b>plums</b>	LOW	MED	HIGH
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- Hawke's Bay's Wilson's Early have been and gone, Red Beaut is now being picked, with Rose Zee expected to start light picks next week.

Market update by Richard Mills, NZ market support, Summerfruit NZ, email [richard.mills@summerfruitnz.co.nz](mailto: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.