



6 January 2021

<b>Overview</b>	<p>Hawke's Bay is ticking along quite nicely; warm, overcast and dry. Peach and nectarine fruit size is a little smaller than ideal, as are Central Otago cherries. The two, four-day holidays have impacted on the volume of fruit being sold but many are saying that year-on-year the amount of fruit sold has been really good. I have again picked up the comment that online is a real part of sales, particularly for cherries, as well as large white flesh peaches and nectarines.</p> <p>Fruit in two of the four supermarkets that I visited was very good, one OK and the fourth was dreadful. The pre-pack apricots looked like Royal Rosa that had travelled too far.</p> <p>As we have seen, Central Otago has been smashed with rain in the heart of the export cherry season. Old-timers have not seen flooding like this for 10 years, with others claiming the district-wide rain to be a one-in-forty-year event.</p>
<b>North Island</b>	<p>Hawke's Bay had less than 10mm of rain in the last week and for all of December just a little over 10mm. Generally, the promised rain has not eventuated. The mean temperature for December was 17 or 18°C. For the coming week hot and warm days are expected and maybe some needed rain at the weekend. We shall see. Growing degree days (GDD) are still 50 units ahead of last season which itself was a very good season. Potential evapotranspiration (PET) for the coming week will be in the 3-5mm/day range.</p>
<b>South Island</b>	<p>GDD in Central Otago are similar to the 2018-19 season – very good. The rainfall is reported at 60 to 100mm at the stations on the Summerfruit NZ portal, but the suspicion is that there was more in the hills surrounding the growing areas. It seems like the flooding occurred when water from the Redbanks Stream bumped into the Fraser River and had nowhere to go. For the coming week there is more rain predicted to add to yesterday's (Tuesday's) effort. Temperatures will be mild to warm, with cool to warm evenings. PET in the 1-5mm/day range in the coming week.</p>

<b>cherries</b>	<b>LOW</b>	MED	HIGH
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- Looking back over my notes there were comments such as, 'we lost 30-40% outside the rain covers' from both Hawke's Bay and Marlborough. The cherry season had never really got going until Central Otago kicked in. Then there was too much small fruit.
- There will be some fruit in cool stores, enough for a couple of days maybe. Following the rain in Central Otago there will be a hole in supply for a week – maybe longer, and the supply may never quite return as growers decide whether or not harvest is an economic proposition. A real pity as demand is said to be holding up well.

<b>apricots</b>	LOW	<b>MED</b>	HIGH
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- Supply and demand seem to be quite well balanced if not slightly too many. This again may well change as the near-ripe Sundrop from Central Otago will be looking scruffy. Sundrop will start again once the trees dry out with Clutha Sun and Clutha Gem to start later in the week.
- Most of the Hawke's Bay supply will be done and dusted, with a little Sundrop, Trevatt and Clutha Gold to sell. Sundrop had started from Central and we assume will start again once fruit quality assessments have been completed.

<b>nectarines</b>	LOW	<b>MED</b>	HIGH
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- Nectarine sales are going well and might be slightly undersupplied. This will now change as the mid-season volumes from Hawke's Bay are ramping up. Any nectarines from Central are staying local or travelling to Christchurch.
- Varieties available include Fire Bright, Ruby Diamond and Mid Star, Red Bright and Spring Bright plus a little residual Maylis, Kay Pearl and Queen Giant. Majestic Pearl is a week away.
- The Hunny nectarines are selling very well.

<b>peaches</b>	LOW	<b>MED</b>	HIGH
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- Peaches are not selling as well as nectarines, but supply is not that far ahead of demand. Golden peaches (Tatura Belle) from the earliest Hawke's Bay orchard are now in store. These sell well, almost as a category separate to other peaches.
- Varieties available are Blazing Star, Improved Flavorcrest, Rich Lady, Lady Red, Doris, Scarlet O'Hara and my personal favourite Sweet Dream will start this week.

<b>plums</b>	LOW	MED	<b>HIGH</b>
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- Demand is flat and some of the early varieties have yet to clear.
- Varieties available include Black Amber, Billington, Shiro, Fortune, Purple Majesty and Black Diamond. Primetime is about a week away.

Market update by Richard Mills, Summerfruit New Zealand, 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.