



market update



04 January 2023

North Island	<p>There is a little bit of guardedness in the stone fruit market. There has been a couple of good sales weeks, prices have stayed up for apricots, peaches and nectarines while cherries have done what cherries do at this stage of the season.</p> <p>At this time of the year, we would anticipate slowing purchases as Christmas expenses and people on holiday flatten sales, but this is not yet being seen. There is an observable short supply on some supermarket shelves. The factors that may be in play include not picking and therefore not encountering penal wage rates, lower than normal crop loads from spring weather conditions, off-orchard logistics issues and the removal of some blocks that traditionally harvest in this period. Some orchards have not sent any fruit away for a week.</p> <p>The main stream, big volume varieties of peach and nectarine are getting under way very soon which will put more fruit on shelves.</p> <p>Counter these factors with the inclement weather that is sitting over Northland and Auckland and will spread further south in the coming days, this not-summer weather normally suppress buying for a couple of days.</p> <p>Last week Hawkes Bay had a relatively dry period, with warm but not hot days. The growing degree days, GDD, in Bay View and Twyford are certainly behind 'average', but about average in more inland areas. The forecast for the week ahead is for warm but not hot days, cloudy conditions and rain every day for a week. Not huge amounts of moisture but enough to be a nuisance.</p>
South Island	<p>Summer has definitely arrived in Central Otago, with warm and hot days, very little rain and high evapotranspiration readings, up to 8mm in a single day. The week coming looks to be similar, maybe a bit cooler but with a rain event predicted for Friday. At this stage we wait to see what eventuates. Ten millimeters might be OK but 20 or more might not.</p> <p>Last year was a boomer for gate sales and this year is reportedly proceeding in the same manner. Staff levels are said to be almost enough, what we really don't need is a day or two not picking due to rain.</p>

cherries	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There are good volumes of fruit being delivered to markets, and the fruit that I sampled is good quality. There are Stella and other varieties such as Skeena and Kordia available, but the majority of the harvest is Lapins – and will continue to be so for more than a week. Sweetheart is a week away. ➤ There is good value being obtained on the local market for large firm, export quality fruit. 			
apricots	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Apricots are being picked in Cromwell and Alexandra region but generally being sold locally and at gate sales as crop loads are not heavy. The bulk of Sundrop supply will start from Roxburgh at the weekend or early next week. ➤ Cluthagold will be at least 10 days away. 			
nectarines	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ From Hawkes Bay there is Spring Bright, Queen Giant and Fire Bright available. White fleshed Gaylene is starting now. Venus and Red Gold are a week away. ➤ Central Otago is now starting with some volume of the early varieties such as Diamond Bright and the white fleshed Artic Glo. 			
peaches	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mellow Yellow is finishing now with the early blocks of Taura Belle (Golden Belle) just starting. Rich Lady and Improved Flavorcrest are now finished. Honey Peaches (in light volumes), Flamecrest, Scarlet O'Hara, Doris and Donuts are on the shelves. Blazing Star is about to be picked and Sweet Dream skim picks can be found. ➤ From Central Otago there is Crown Princess, Spring Lady and Spring Crest. 			
plums	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fortune is now well under way with a little Primetime available. The second tranche of Black Diamond will begin harvest about the middle of next week. 			

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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.