



market update



11 February 2020

North Island

Temperature, potential evapotranspiration and growing degree days are all good and normal without too many extremes. Some rain would be welcomed but is not yet in the forecasts. The slightly cooler nights have me thinking of March conditions, but all in all it's great fruit growing and harvesting weather. Apples are well underway, and our summerfruit is selling, mostly at better prices. Some of the supermarkets that I saw yesterday needed to improve the offering on the shelves – looked as though they were a bit short of staff. Again, we are now sharing the prime entry displays with other fruit types such as oranges. Soft fruits are available, with raspberries in short supply and strawberries looking to be at the end of their season.

South Island

Central Otago, like Hawke's Bay, is expecting warm temperatures, moderate PET and GDD. Cooler nights are helping keep the fruit from ripening too fast. Bits and pieces of rain are forecast for the coming week. Earlier areas are well under way with peach and nectarine harvest and others are hesitating to get going. No rots have been seen as a result of the rain last week.

cherries LOW MED HIGH

➤ I heard of about 1,500 kg of Staccato and Sweetheart that didn't get onto a plane will go to the Auckland independent market. One of the five supermarkets that I visited today had a few cherries but that is it.

apricots LOW MED HIGH

➤ Supply has been affected by the 100 mm of rain that parts of Central Otago received this time last week. Some fruit will not be picked now and some that was picked immediately post event may not be packed. Supply is tight but not awful, prices could be rising, and we anticipate an increase in supply next week. Volumes are expected to pick up a little next week.

➤ The last of the Clutha Gold and Vulcan are available. Nevis 160 is being picked and Nevis 180 has had a skim pick.

nectarines LOW MED HIGH

➤ 'Supplies are a bit tight, and the expected flow from Central Otago has not quite started'. That was last week's comment and is still applicable. Retail prices are firm.

➤ Varieties available from Central Otago include some Mid Star, Summer Bright, Fire Pearl, Bright Pearl, Red Gold and Venus, Orin and Fantasia. Second picks seem to have been delayed by the weather events and pack outs are lower than ideal. August Fire from Hawke's Bay will be with us shortly. Sweet Valentine is on some shelves.

peaches LOW MED HIGH

➤ Golden Belle from Hawke's Bay is all but finished, Star is well through and Belles from Central Otago are due early next week. Then there will be a gap until the original Golden Queen from Hawke's Bay kicks in – sometime in March. Elegant Lady stored supply is all but finished with fresh picked supply of this variety now coming from Mangaweka. There are good supplies of peacharines.

➤ From Central Otago there are Rome Star, Glowing Star, Sweet Dream, Improved Flavourcrest and Flamecrest available. Grand and Tropical Candy and Flattos are being picked. The volume will pick up next week, be available for a couple of weeks and then taper off in the third week from now.

plums LOW MED HIGH

➤ The plum market is still full, with the pricing varying across the country. Hawke's Bay, where most of the supply is coming from, may well have the most pressure on prices. Comments were made to the effect that the supply demand equation might be more balanced this time next week – hopefully. There is still a long way to go with plums, quite possibly into April.

➤ Primetime and Fortune from Hawke's Bay should clear in a week. Freedom, Omega, Louisa and the Doris's (Dori?) are selling, Angeleno, Flavour King, Humdinger are picked or about to be so. Autumn Hunny is not too far away. Small fruit is reported to be more difficult to sell.

➤ Any Greengage that escaped the rain in Central Otago should be available. Fortune, Black Diamond and Black Amber from Central Otago are also available.

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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.