



market update



3 March 2020

North Island

Again, there are nice displays of good-looking fruit in all my local supermarkets. All categories are there, excepting cherry of course. The retailers are once again saying that they cannot supply all orders.

Hawke's Bay is anticipating 15mm of rain for Wednesday, which would be a great start to the autumn soil moisture recharge as the ground is really hard. If you have access to water put some on, especially the young trees. February has been a good GDD month and that looks to continue with warm and mild days and mild nights. PET is predicted to be 4mm/day and then settling into 3mm/day for the rest of the week. The apple growers should be smiling – perfect autumn weather.

South Island

Again, I found only one rot in a peach across the four stores, but it was a doozy. We have had an excellent end to the season from a wastage point of view, so let's maintain the high standard and bring an expectant mood to the 2020-21 season.

At the time of writing there are showers in parts of Central Otago and another bit of rain expected at the weekend. It has been warm with cooler nights starting to creep in. Most of the area has had exceptional GDD accumulation and Alexandra has been a good average. PET will be 4mm/day declining to 2mm by the weekend.

The early blocks are finishing peach and nectarine harvest for the season. Plums are now flowing into the North Island.

cherries LOW MED HIGH

➤ All finished.

apricots LOW MED HIGH

➤ This category continues to surprise me with all stores in my area having good looking apricots for sale and a desire for more. If there was a late area planted in a late variety there could be some potential.

➤ The last of the Nevis 180 is being picked about now and for a few more days.

nectarines LOW MED HIGH

➤ We have got to the stage of 'if more was available it would have a home'. Retail prices are firm.

➤ Hawke's Bay has August Fire still available.

➤ Central Otago is finishing Orin and Fantasia with just a little white fleshed Fire Pearl and Bright Pearl. Summer Blush and Bon Bon are being picked now, Late Star is now starting, with one grower commenting on the high sugar levels. Flattos are on the shelves.

➤ Next week will see Red Glen, then August Red at the end of the week and August Fire next week.

peaches LOW MED HIGH

➤ Blackboy is still available, as are peacharines from Mangaweka, and Golden Queens from Hawke's Bay. Quality of the Queens on display was variable, and the supply not as high as one might imagine.

➤ From Central Otago there is Tatura Star and Peacharines. Plus Plus will be on the market next week.

➤ Flatto peaches will be available for another two weeks.

plums LOW MED HIGH

➤ The plum market has again strengthened, but there are still plenty around. Hawke's Bay stored supply has yet to clear. There is now a combination of North and South Island supply.

➤ Angeleno, Autumn Honey and Freedom from Hawke's Bay and Fortune from Central Otago, are the main offerings. Royal Star is just starting to get under way. This variety will be available for the next three weeks and then Malone will be with us.

➤ I have left the volume indicator on high, but note that the supply is starting to come to a more balanced position.

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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.