



market update



23 November 2022

North Island

The harvest season has started with apricots, cherries, peaches and nectarines from the early varieties being picked.

There was sufficient winter chilling according to the models but leaf fall at the start of winter was slow. Since September 1 there has been normal accumulation of heat units, although, again, a little slow to get going. Now there has been high 20's and even a 30-degree peaks recorded. The real story is the rainfall and the effect on pollination – the bees have stayed home at critical times. Crops loads are variable and in places light.

Timing of harvest is variable as well. It seems that the early to flower fruit such as Royal Rosa apricot and May Glo nectarines are a bit earlier than their 'normal'. Those fruit that bloomed in standard periods seem to be later than average. The stress from wet soil is again mucking around with timing.

There seems to be sufficient people around for harvest at the moment.

South Island

Marlborough cherries are pretty similar to the Hawkes Bay story with plenty of winter chill and normal heat unit accumulation, although, again a little slow to start. The timing of rain events is being unhelpful.

It's just a little early to comment on Central Otago cherries yet. That said there was plenty of winter chilling, as usual. The heat unit accumulation is normal and crop loads are reported to be just fine for the most part.

cherries

LOW

MED

HIGH

- The very early cherries from Hawkes Bay have either been picked or by-passed due to cracking. More favoured varieties such as Rosann and Chelan have just started or will be starting in the next couple of days. Samba and Sonnet may start over the weekend or early next week. Burlat is due in DC soon.
- Blenheim early season fruit is starting or about to start with Earlise now, Rosann and Samba picking will start over the weekend.
- Growers are tending to leave fruit on the trees to get the extra bit of size and sweetness as a compensation for the lighter crops. The benefit will be a good eating experience for consumers.

apricots

LOW

MED

HIGH

- Royal Rosa and the other early season varieties being picked now. The flavour of the little bit that I tasted has been good.

nectarines

LOW

MED

HIGH

- MayGlo (yellow fleshed classic) is well on its way and there will be fruit of this variety available for another couple of weeks. The sweet white fleshed Polar Light is in stores now and should be for a little longer as well. The next nectarine is Armredark, perhaps starting next week.
- The May Glo and Polar Light that I have tasted have been good, better than I anticipated considering they are very early season varieties and we could do with some more sunshine.

peaches

LOW

MED

HIGH

- The very early May Crest is being picked now, Spring Crest from early areas is 3-4 days away from harvest, with Spring Fire a further 3-4 days away.

plums

LOW

MED

HIGH

- There will be no plums available until Rose Zee starts.

Market update by Richard Mills, Technical Advisor, Summerfruit NZ, email 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.