



market update



04 January 2022

North Island

It's an interesting time of the year with extra holidays and people travelling so we are never sure how much fruit is enough. The weather is now appropriate for ice cream and summer fruit, but we generally do not have quite enough supply. Shelves are looking picked over and this combined with lower volumes and lower pack outs in the previous week have led to lower inventory levels.

The weather last week was fairly settled, and the coming week looks to be more of the same, although there is a dry southerly change moving through at the end of the week. This may not be a bad thing as the pickers will be able to stay on top of the maturing fruit. Growing degree day accumulation is very good with the Longlands station approaching 800 units since September 1. I am hoping that the effects of the 10mm or more of rain at the beginning of last week is behind us and that the warm then hot temperatures will produce some good fruit. Potential evapotranspiration, PET, will be in the 4-5 mm/day range for this period. A normal mid-summer period.

If there was more fruit available, it would probably be sold. New season apples in volume supply are two weeks away.

South Island

Fruit stalls are still telling me that they are going really well in Central Otago. GDD accumulation has been very good, even outstanding with no rain in the last week. It seems as though summer has settled in here as well with last week being dry and the coming week looks to be just as good. Some 30°C days have been followed by mild overcast days allowing for a manageable harvest period. GDD accumulation at the Rockview station is as good as it has been on 463 units with three other stations accumulating similar numbers. The coming week will be warm or hot with PET in the 4-5mm/day range as well.

cherries

LOW

MED

HIGH

- Export harvest is well under way and demand from the exporters is strong. Pack outs are said to be good now. As a consequence, the amount of fruit available on the local market is still low. Some of my local stores did not have cherries for sale. How a year can change things.
- Varieties that are being picked and packed include the end of Stella, plus Rainier, Sylvia, Liberty Bell, Summit, Skeena, a bit of Sweetheart with the main variety at present being Lapins. Quality is good.

apricots

LOW

MED

HIGH

- Cluthagold is still being picked from Hawkes Bay, but the majority of supply is now Sundrop from Central Otago. Some are just starting, and others are on second picks. Volume supply should be available from this weekend. Quality is said to be top notch. Central Otago Cluthagold will be available soon. There is still some Trevat that can be found.
- There is a little cross over in supply from the two districts, but the situation seems to be manageable.

nectarines

LOW

MED

HIGH

- From Hawkes Bay there is Fire Bright and Mid Star available, demand is picking up and the sweeter style fruit is now with us. Good sized fruit is being delivered to markets. Spring Lady, Spring Bright, Queen Giant and Honey Royale are being picking and packed at the moment. Spring Red will begin harvest later in the week or next week.
- Central Otago is picking Diamond Bright with Spring Bright, with Spring Red to be picked soon.

peaches

LOW

MED

HIGH

- The volumes of peach available is not high. Volumes from Hawkes Bay will increase soon, with the supply out of Central Otago now picking up. Demand is said to be steady. There is some Spring Lady and Blazing Star in Hawkes Bay with Scarlet O'Hara due to start at the weekend.
- Central will have June Lady, Rich Lady and Blazing Star sometime next week.
- Yellow peaches are not to far away with Mellow Yellow from Central Otago and maybe a few Tatura Belle soon from Hawkes Bay.

plums

LOW

MED

HIGH

- Purple Majesty is still the main variety at this stage, Fortune has started with Black Diamond and Amber Jewel due to start next week.
- The supply-demand equation seems better balanced this year with retail prices matching that of the other fruits.

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.