



# market update



13 February 2024

**North Island**

Market sentiment seems to still be in a good place. Even with other fruit volumes increasing, including imported citrus, summerfruit is holding its own. It is still summer, and the warm days continue to speak summerfruit. The hump of apricot volume has gone through the system, with the apricot and plum markets described as firming. The growing degree day accumulation (GDD) rate in Hawkes Bay slowed last week, which has slightly delayed the final nectarine harvest. There is no rain predicted in the coming week with warm days and a few hot days. Water loss as measured by evapotranspiration will be higher than last week at 3-5 mm/day. This day last year Cyclone Gabrielle visited. Our industry's thoughts are with all those who were affected and are still affected.

**South Island**

Last week Central Otago had generally only mild temperatures, and no significant rain despite the prediction of 12-25mm for the week. Growers would like a bit of rain to help with fruit size. Despite the cooler temperatures, ET was still up to 7mm/day. This week the temperatures are still only mild, with a day or two of cool temperatures. There is no rain in the forecast so it's a steady as you go type of outlook. Should the temperatures be higher than predicted, there will be no complaints. PET is in the 2-4 mm/day range for most.

**cherries** LOW MED HIGH

- Last week only three of the five local outlets had cherries for sale. This week it's only two, and the quality looked to be OK.
- As usual cherries can still be bought even though there is no volume for sale.

**apricots** LOW MED HIGH

- The good quality of most of apricots has helped move the big volume through the system. The hump has all but gone with volume of supply predicted to shorten by the end of this week.
- Varieties being picked now include the last of Nevis 160 and the start Nevis 180. NZ Summer 2 (NZS2) is being picked and NZ Summer 3 (NZS3) is being tested for ripeness in the earlier areas.

**nectarines** LOW MED HIGH

- Hawkes Bay is just starting August Fire in some areas and others need a few more days on the trees.
- Central Otago volumes are now building to fill up the pipeline. Available varieties include the end of Mid Star and the start of Late Star. Of the non-IP varieties, Fantasia, Orion, Venus and Red Free are available.
- There are some Summer Bright and Bright Pearl being picked in the later maturing areas.

**Peaches** LOW MED HIGH

- Golden Belle is finishing from Hawkes Bay with harvest of that variety now starting in Central Otago. Until the Central Otago volume builds, there will be Tatura Star available in the golden peach category. There are also Golden Flattos available.
- Yellow peaches available include Elegant Lady and Flamecrest, Rome Star, Glowing Star, the end of Sweet Dream, and now Tropical Candy.
- Peacharines continue to be picked and sold.

**plums** LOW MED HIGH

- The plum market is starting to balance out.
- Central Otago is starting to pick Fortune while the Greengage sales have largely finished.
- Hawkes Bay has many varieties available with Fortune to finish this week and Primetime finishing soon. Angelino and Plum Dinga will continue to be picked and packed, to be joined by Autumn Honey, Freedom and Omega later this week.
- For those who want Black Doris, Hawkes Bay supply is finishing with Central Otago starting soon.

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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.