



19 Dec 2023

North Island	<p>Summer seems to have arrived over the weekend just gone with orchards registering temperatures of over 30°C. Rainfall has been nothing much unless the orchard is in Bay View which recorded 13mm last Monday. Wind run has been low, so water use by trees is not excessive, so potential evapotranspiration (PET) has been 5-6 mm/day, occasionally 7mm/day. Growing degree day (GDD) accumulation for the season is still lower than previous seasons to date – although trending upwards recently with the 30°C plus maximums and warm evenings.</p> <p>Despite the warming trend, the overall situation is still one of lighter supply than ideal and an unsatisfied demand for large fruit. Trees are still recovering from a tough couple of years. If this is the switch over to the promised El Nino conditions, fruit in the next tranche will show the benefits of these better growing conditions.</p> <p>Marketers are looking forward to the influx of South Island cherries that are arriving now, to get volume on shelves and enthusiasm from consumers. Fruit has been tasting good and looking clean but there is just not enough of it.</p>
South Island	<p>Marlborough had a couple of cool nights last week and then a run of 30°C days with no rain to speak of. This is an excellent run of hot and dry weather as the cherry season there comes towards its end.</p> <p>Central Otago weather has been described as perfect cherry growing conditions with cool nights and warm to hot days – which is great for colouring fruit. There has been no rain in the period, and PET in the 5-7 mm/day range. Happy trees and happy growers. The coming week will see a continuation of the hot and dry conditions, with a change from westerlies to easterlies later in the week with some rain in the forecast. More of the wet is predicted for the Roxburgh end of Central Otago.</p>

cherries	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The early orchards in Hawkes Bay have finished picking with just a few pallets to be dispatched during the week. Later orchards will be picking Lapins at the end of this week which will be too late for Christmas. ➤ In Marlborough a few of the growers have also finished for this season, while others have a bit of Lapins and Santina to go with Stella to be picked between Christmas and New Year. ➤ Central Otago in general is picking the S⁵, Samba, Sonnet and Santina with Stella soon. Lapins will be starting soon as well. There are suggestions that there could be a small hole in supply until Stella and Dawson are properly ready. Quality is particularly good. Volumes are building but an oversupply is not anticipated at this stage. 			
apricots	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hawkes Bay Sundrop is in the market now, and the hot temperatures are bringing forward Clutha Gold. Volumes from here will still be low. ➤ Available volumes will remain low until South Island Sundrop supply becomes available early next year, picking from 3 January is the best estimate at this stage with 6 or 7 January for the fruit on shelves in the major markets. 			
nectarines	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rose Diamond and Diamond Bright supply is finishing now, Early Star is about three quarters sold and Honey Fire is also available still. The next yellow fleshed variety is Spring Bright. ➤ White fleshed Maylis is available in limited quantities, with Crystal to start soon. ➤ The market is wanting more than can be supplied. 			
peaches	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supply is tight and will be this way until the New Year varieties start. ➤ There is a little Spring Lady to sell, Coraline and Alba are available, and the first bits of Rich Lady are being picked. ➤ Keep an eye out for two new non-melting yellow fleshed peaches that have a few trial plantings. These Golden Queen style fruit could be a good addition to the Tatura Belle, Star and Queen category in a few years. 			
plums	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rose Zee is still available as is Black Diamond. ➤ Purple Majesty is being thought about but in reality, is still a few days away from harvest. 			