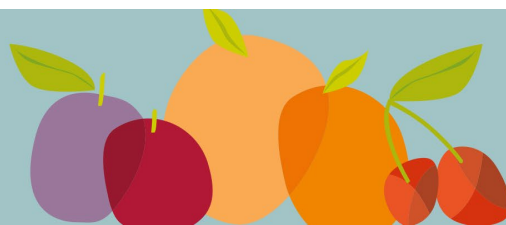




market update



20 February 2024

North Island	<p>Last week's comment on market sentiment was that it was in a good place. This week the feeling is a little softer. Factors mentioned include discretionary spend, prices and the cost of living. Imported citrus from Egypt and the USA has started to arrive, with pipfruit volumes and variety mix increasing. However, there is still plenty of good looking summerfruit in most outlets. The supply and demand parameters continue to come closer together, leading to a reasonably balanced market.</p> <p>The last two weeks have been perfect for fruit growing in Hawkes Bay, with no rain, and warm to hot temperatures without the higher temperatures lasting too long. This week will be warm, leading into a hot weekend with a sprinkle of rain early next week. The NIWA webinar last week suggested that there will be a turn to a moist period in early March, and that the El Nino conditions of generally warm and dry may persist through autumn. This is a good outlook for remaining harvest in both Islands.</p>
South Island	<p>Last week much of Central Otago had mild and hot temperatures with no rain. Roxburgh and Ettrick had slightly cooler temperatures on a couple of days and a little sprinkle of rain. This week, the pattern repeats with mild temperatures then warming up for the weekend. But it will be a little cooler in the more southern valleys.</p> <p>Both Hawkes Bay and Central Otago are having very similar growing conditions. In the past four weeks, Hawkes Bay's growing degree day accumulation has been 280 to 300 units, with Central Otago collecting 250 to 280 units.</p> <p>A sprinkling of snow has been cited on the tops of hills outside of Alexandra this week.</p>
cherries	
	LOW MED HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Only one of the local outlets has cherries for sale. 	
apricots	
	LOW MED HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Varieties being picked and packed include Nevis 180, NZSummer2 and NZSummer3. ➤ Clutha Gold is still being sold. 	
nectarines	
	LOW MED HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hawkes Bay has August Fire, Venus and Valentine nectarines. ➤ Central Otago volumes of white and pearl nectarines are finishing. For some, there will be a wee gap in harvest before Orion and Venus start. For others, harvest of Orion and Late Star are well under way. ➤ August Red and then August Fire are not yet ready to be picked. 	
Peaches	
	LOW MED HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Golden Belle and Flattos from Central Otago and Tatura Star from Hawkes Bay are the golden peaches available. Queens are not yet ready. Central Otago will look to start Star harvest next week. ➤ Peacharines continue to be picked and sold from Hawkes Bay. They are about to be harvested from Mangaweka and Central Otago. There is still Coconut Ice available in the stores. Small volumes of IP fruit are making a few markets. ➤ Larger fruit is receiving a premium price. 	
plums	
	LOW MED HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The plum market continues to sort itself out with Hawkes Bay supply still dominating sales. Varieties available include Louisa, Black Doris and Freedom (from both districts), with some Primetime, Angelino, Fortune and Omega (aka George Wilson). ➤ Plums will be available for another month yet, with Royal Star and Malone to come from Hawkes Bay and most of the 'mid-season' varieties from Central Otago. 	

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.