



market update



21 December 2021

North Island	<p>The rain we mentioned in the last report did arrive, and since then the weather has been warm and dry and has now turned hot. This is good for the fruit that will be picked soon, but the fruit that is being sold now is showing the effects of that wet overcast period. I have bought under-ripe fruit and fruit that has brown rot after a couple of days. While I can fully understand how both of these scenarios occur the consumer really doesn't care. Some third pick fruit has been left on the tree.</p> <p>Growing degree days, GDD, are similar to last year in Bay View and better than last in the more inland areas. The coming week is expected to be hot and mostly dry with potential evapotranspiration, PET, in the 4-7 mm/day range. The first time I have seen a 7 mm anticipated for this season.</p> <p>The supermarkets I have looked in have fruit, but not always full displays and are generally reporting that supply and demand are reasonably well balanced, or if anything a bit tight.</p>
South Island	<p>Marlborough has stopped for the season. The light crops and rain have made a difficult cherry harvest. GDD accumulation in Central Otago is on par with last season, but the rainfall is more. This week will be warm and mostly dry with PET in the 3-5 mm/day range. The rain events of last week have made for lower cherry pack outs than ideal but fruit is still being sent to market. Other than cherries the season has yet to get underway which is normal.</p>

cherries	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There are still not enough cherries reaching the shelves. Marlborough and Hawkes Bay have all but finished harvesting, so the vast majority of supply will be from Central Otago. ➤ The varieties that are being harvested are the last of the Rainier out of Hawkes Bay, and from Central Otago Sonnet, Santana, Samba, Fulfur, some Stella and maybe some Bing and Dawson. These older two varieties are not packing out as well under the difficult weather conditions. Some will have been walked away from. Helicopters have been well used to aid drying of the trees and fruit. ➤ We are expecting normal supply to resume in January as the export varieties get under way. 			
apricots	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sundrop is well under way from Hawkes Bay, if not finished on the early blocks with not much more expected after Christmas. Kyoto and Cluthagold is expected to start in the days between that and New Year, maybe a little earlier if the temperatures stay hot. Of the five stone fruits, apricots have been the star performer so far this season. ➤ Central Otago very early Sundrop is anticipated soon. It seems that there will be a little cross over between the two production centers, but not to any real extent. Compared to last season apricots are behaving well. 			
nectarines	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Early Star is still in the market and going well and will clear soon. Other varieties include Ruby Giant, Rose Diamond, Maylis, Amber Sister, Diamond Bright, Honey Fire and some white fleshed Chrystal. Next week should see Queen Giant in the market. Nectarines from Hawkes Bay are more split and wrinkled than ideal following the rain events. Rots and under ripe fruit have been seen and mentioned. Total volume supplied to markets will be down on the normal expected supply. ➤ A few early varieties are being picked in Central Otago but these will stay very local in the fruit stalls. 			
peaches	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Coraline is finishing with Rich Lady set to be the dominant peach variety this week. Improved Flavorcrest will start soon. Peach supply has been a bit tight all season but this should change in the New Year. We have lower volume available in this slot as the older, poorer performing varieties have been removed. ➤ As with the nectarines there will be a little bit of local only supply in Central Otago. 			
plums	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The early variety Rose Zee is still available, along with Black Diamond and now Purple Majesty. Black Amber is still a wee way off, although a little Fortune is expected soon. ➤ The supply-demand equation seems better balanced this year, at his stage. 			

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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.