



market update



25 January 2022

North Island	<p>Market conditions seem to be okay with most of the Summerfruit crops reasonably balanced with regards to supply and demand. The mountain of cherries that traditionally occur at this time of the year is fading. At this stage there is no obvious impact from moving to the red light of covid-19 settings on supply or demand but there is some nervousness in the supply chain. Buyers are back to working remotely with logistics personnel taking extra precautions. It would be a shame to have supply and demand balanced with plenty of fruit being sold, but insufficient truck drivers or forklift operators to move it around.</p> <p>All the Hawkes Bay weather stations are showing excellent growing degree day (GDD) accumulation, with 30, 40 or even 50 units above last year being achieved. There was no significant rain again in the last period even though there was a southerly change. This week coming seems be similar with predicted rain on Wednesday, but we shall see. Potential evapotranspiration (PET) will be steadily in the 4-5 mm range.</p>
South Island	<p>Even with a couple of cool days in Central Otago the GDD's in most locations are very good still. The star performer again is the Rockview station which is 90 units ahead of last season. With these sorts of numbers there is no logical reason why any crops should be behind on harvest date, assuming similar crop loads etc.</p> <p>The rain of last week is reported to have not done any significant damage to the remaining cherry crops. For this coming week there is another southerly change coming with a possible shower at the Cromwell end but nothing much at the Roxburgh end. PET should be in the 4-5 mm per day range. There are still a few gaps in supply. Plums have had a good run but may soon collide with the Fortune variety available from both Islands. Fruit stalls are still seeing lots of customers, which is pleasing the vendors.</p>

cherries	LOW	MED	HIGH
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➤ There is still lots of cherries available but there are good sales as well. Quality is reported to be variable but this morning I bought some excellent eating fruit. Sure, it was not premium export size but firm, almost crunchy, sweet and juicy.

➤ Lapins, Sweetheart and Staccato can still be found. Stock levels are nearly under control.

➤ As is always the case you learn more when you are on orchard rather than on the phone. This last week I realized that the cherry harvest season is longer than I thought. There are still Lapins, for instance, being picked in the late blocks in Roxburgh and in the higher terraced blocks around Cromwell. While these are destined for export, we will also be seeing this fruit on the local market.

apricots	LOW	MED	HIGH
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➤ The last of Sundrop is being sold now and Clutha Gold is in full swing. Nevis will now not be too far away. Supply will continue to tighten but is not going away for a little bit yet.

nectarines	LOW	MED	HIGH
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➤ Classic style nectarines are coming to a natural end in Hawkes Bay with only 7 days or so of Orin, Fantasia, Red Gold and Venus availability. Sweet August and August Fire are not yet ready for harvest. The Honey style fruit will be available for a bit longer with the last of the Honey Royale now and Late Star for another week or so.

➤ There are very few white fleshed nectarines available.

➤ In Central Otago Big Orange and Spring Bright are finishing, there is some Red and Ruby Diamond with Fantasia still to start. Mid Star will commence sometime next week.

peaches	LOW	MED	HIGH
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➤ The white fleshed Scarlet O'Hara and Coconut Ice and yellow Flamecrest are available but only in tidy up volumes. The honey style Sweet Dream and Tropical Candy will be only be around for a little longer from Hawkes Bay.

➤ Central Otago is finishing Blazing Star and Rich Lady harvest. Rome Star is under way with Sweet Dream to start shortly. Supply volume is now ramping up which is great timing as Hawkes Bay winds down.

➤ Golden Belle is available and will be for a while with the early blocks of Star starting now.

plums	LOW	MED	HIGH
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➤ Varieties available include Primetime and Fortune, Black Doris and Amber Jewel from Hawkes Bay. Fortune from Central is not too far away. For the first time this season there is plenty of plums available.

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.