



market update



28 December 2021

North Island	<p>The week just gone has been hot and dry with orchards and crops being irrigated again. AS such, I am now hoping that the last of the rain effected fruit is or has been sold, and that this week's fruit has more shelf life. Volumes in general out of the North Island are lower than budgeted with packers reporting empty cool stores. Demand at this time of the year is never at its greatest, and yet if there was more fruit it would sell. Prices are consequently strong judging from what I see in the supermarkets. Fruit quality seems to be better than the previous week, although I'm weary of green looking apricots.</p> <p>Growing degree days, GDD, have been excellent, read hot temperatures, and are now ahead of last season, by as much as 60 units in Twyford, and Longlands has now accumulated 728 units. There was no rain last week with the coming week expecting warm days and a bit of drizzle on most days. Potential evapotranspiration, PET, will be in the 3-5mm/day range.</p>
South Island	<p>The Central Otago weather stations have accumulated better GDD than last season which backs up the comments of slightly early harvests than last season. The Roxburgh station is a bit behind last season, but only just. The Alexandra station is on 420 units which is 50 more than last season. The area had been dry until yesterday with about 8mm being recorded in a cold weather change. This coming week the temperatures will be mild rising to hot with no real rain in the forecast. PET will be in the 4-5mm/day range.</p> <p>Two of my correspondents mentioned that their roadside shops are selling lots of fruit, and that a good proportion of the trade is from people from the wider lower South Island community.</p>

cherries	LOW	MED	HIGH
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- There are still not enough cherries reaching the shelves as was the situation last week. There are some reports of shelves devoid of cherries. There is now no fruit from Hawkes Bay or Marlborough and there is a 'picking hole' in parts of Central Otago. Four statutory holidays in a row are another contributing factor to a less than idea supply.
- There may still be some Sonnet, Santina, Bing and Sam being tidied up. Stella and Rainier will be the main varieties being harvested along with start of Lapins later in the week.
- Export is now well under way which will not help the supply for local market.
- Kordia and Staccato are varieties to look forward to.

apricots	LOW	MED	HIGH
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- Sundrop is nearing the end of harvest in Hawkes Bay , with Cluthagold well under way. Kyoto will be available for about a week. Some of this fruit is still showing the effects of the rain a couple of weeks ago.
- Central Otago early Sundrop is anticipated soon. It seems that there will be a little cross over between the two production areas, but not to any real extent. Compared to last season apricots are behaving well.

nectarines	LOW	MED	HIGH
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- Hawkes Bay Spring Brite and Queen Giant are in the last harvest week and there are generally lower volumes available. The white fleshed Chrystal is in reasonable supply. Fire Brite and Mid Star harvest will begin over the weekend and will be available for consumers early next week.
- Central Otago nectarines are beginning but all staying local. Diamond Brite will be picked next week.

peaches	LOW	MED	HIGH
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- We are coming to the end of the Donut, Lady Red, Rich Lady and Improved Flavourcrest supply with low volume availability. Scarlet O'Hara and Honey peaches might start next week, dependent on the temperatures this coming week.
- Central Otago peaches were seen in a Hastings supermarket this morning, but generally the small supply is destined for gate sales or Otago and Southland supermarkets. Varieties being picked include Springcrest, Spring Lady and Crown Princess.

plums	LOW	MED	HIGH
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- The early variety Rose Zee is still available. Purple Majesty is the main variety at this stage and the earliest Fortune has had a nibble pick.
- The supply-demand equation seems better balanced this year, at his stage.

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.