



market update



7 December 2021

North Island	According to NIWA a La Niña summer will bring moist rainy conditions to the east coast of the North Island, less rain to the SW of the South Island and warmer temperatures everywhere. This seems to be exactly what's happening. Last week was warmer and wetter than average and this week we are anticipating warm days, warm nights and dribbles of rain all week. Growing degree days, GDD, are as good as it's been in the last few years, possibly because of the warm nights. We are anticipating potential evapotranspiration to be 2-5 mm/day for the next seven days.
South Island	Marlborough has been wet again, has accumulated good GDD, and is anticipating warm days and moderate night temperatures, much like Hawkes Bay. Central Otago generally has very good GDD accumulation, and has been slightly warmer and wetter than the long-term average. We are expecting mild days and cool nights in the coming week with some rain on most days. PET will be in the 2-5mm/day range.

cherries	LOW	MED	HIGH
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- Volumes available are low, which is not all that surprising considering the amount of rain. I was quoted 50-66% recovery from uncovered cherries today, and you can bet there was field grading as well. Varieties available from HB are the end of Rosann; plus Sonnet, Santina and Samba. Nibble picks of Stella and Dawson might start next week as well as the early Lapins blocks. Marlborough is or was picking Rosann and Santina.
- Burlat is finishing from Central Otago and the Sonnet/Santina/Samba triumvirate is still a few days away. Picnic and Lani are available. Chelan might be available next week. The supply chain is still not full, due to weather and non-optimal sets. These lighter crops might see harvest come forward a little.
- I have 3 separate containers of cherries on my shelf. None of them brilliant but knowing that it's a difficult season on early fruit I can understand what is going on. The better two are a bit bland and a bit soft. The third is bad. Bought locally it's pink, acidic and has a brix of 11.5 where grade standards would suggest a minimum of 16! We know from consumer buyer behaviour research done in the past that NZ consumers with a similar experience will not buy any more cherries for 6 weeks.

apricots	LOW	MED	HIGH
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- Royal Rosa is now largely finished and will sell out this week, and thank goodness is the usual comment. Some of the smaller volume varieties such as Castlebright, Honeycot, Central Gold and Sylred are available now. The next large volume variety, Sundrop, should become available next week and continue on through to Christmas.
- Complaints about unripe fruit on supermarket shelves have been made.

nectarines	LOW	MED	HIGH
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- Nectarine supply is tight and expected to remain that way until next year. Varieties that are available include Big Bang, Diamond Brite, Rose Diamond and Armredark. I did see some Mayglo on a shelf but they were past their best.
- Next week will see the beginning of Coraline and Early Star harvest with the Early Star expected to still be available pre-Christmas.
- Rotting fruit has been seen on the shelves. While this is not unexpected after the rain that has fallen, it's still disappointing to see and a warning for the rest of the season.

peaches	LOW	MED	HIGH
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- Peaches to are in short supply. Varieties available include Springfire, Spring White and Spring Lady. Rich Lady and Donuts are expected later in the week or the following week.
- In Central Otago the first of the Spring Crest will be available for local supply soon.

plums	LOW	MED	HIGH
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- The first varieties, Rose Zee and Red Beaut have started, as has Black Diamond from the early area.

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.