

PRODUCT QUALITY AND CROP UPDATE

13.01.2012



KEY S START OF SEASON  
M MID SEASON  
E END OF SEASON

PRODUCT	ORIGIN	VARIETY	SEASON	INFORMATION	Pressures / Brix / Acidity. (Fruit)	Dry Matter (Potatoes)	Season Approaching	Est. New Season Start
Garlic	China / France		M	Peeled - China. No reported issues. Pre-packed / String - good quality, no issues.				
Leeks	UK Cams		M	Leek crop looks well. Do not foresee any issues at this moment in time			Spain	Mid May
Spring Onions	Egypt		S	No reported issues.			UK	May
Baby Spinach	Spain		M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality				
Watercress	USA / Portugal		M	No significant issues. Slight browning of leaf edge on Portuguese crop. Selecting appropriately.				
Bananas	Various	Cavendish	S / M / E	Dominican Republic fruit is immature due to heavy rain, cold weather and low luminosity. Costa Rica is also predicting a shortage for the first 16 weeks of 2012. Ecuador is not reporting any issues at present. Cameroon and Ivory Coast - the fruit is slightly immature, however we will see an improvement as the regions move into their better growing conditions.				
Blackberries	Mexico	Tupi	M	Fruit is all air freight.	Brix: 10 - 11%		Spain	May
Blueberries	Chile	Duke, O'Neil	S	Fruit is all sea freight and all top sealed. Good quality, no reported issues.	Brix: 11 - 13%		Morocco	April
Raspberries	Spain / Mexico	Himbotop, 1703	M	Mexican quality remains very good. Expecting to see some Spanish towards the end of the week.	Brix: 10 - 11%		Spain	Jan
Redcurrants	Holland	Rovada	M	All now into Dutch stored fruit. No reported issues.	Brix: 11%		Chile	March
Strawberries	Egypt / Morocco	Festival	M	Egypt - no issues of white shoulders as they are now well into their season. Moroccan fruit available but size is mixed.	Brix: 8.5 - 11.5%		Spain	Feb
Bok Choi	Holland		E	Good quality, no issues.				
Broccoli	Spain		M	Good availability & quality generally. Monitoring of any issues of mildew caused by sunshine following the forecast rain.			UK	April / May
Broccoli Florets	Spain		M	Good quality, no issues			UK	April / May
Savoy Cabbage	UK Nottinghamshire	Tourmaline	M	Good head weights. No reported issues.			Spain	April
Red Cabbage	UK Nottinghamshire	Rodima	M	Good head weights, no issues.				
Pointed Cabbage	UK Lincolnshire	Monarchy	M	The concern with mildew will continue to be present with the mild and wet climate. Manageable with removal of the outer most leaves				
White Cabbage	UK Nottinghamshire	Destiny	M	Good head weights. No issues.				
Cauliflower	UK / France / Italy		M	Warmer weather has improved the situation. Utilising UK crop as and when available. Imports still available and being utilised as contingency rather than main supply. Spanish sample seen this week looking white, with good frame and size / weight. Good intake reports, so good potential for next week as required as alternative to French. Supply should be expected from all sources over the next week / weeks. (UK when available will be given priority over import).				
Cauliflower Florets	UK Cornwall		E	Reasonable availability of English. No reported issues.			France & Spain only when UK is short	
Curly Kale	UK Lincolnshire	Reflex	M	No major issues, good availability.				
PSB	UK		E	UK season has now finished until Feb 2012. Imported crop to be used in interim.				
Tenderstem Broccoli	Kenya / Jordan		M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality				
Easypeelers	Morocco / Spain	Clementine	M	Juicy and tender to eat, but can be a little acidic. Deep orange colour with a smooth, glossy appearance.	Brix: 11 - 13% Sugar/Acid Ratio: 10:7			
White Grapefruit	Turkey / Israel	Marsh	M	Good quality, no issues	Brix: 9%			
Red/Pink Grapefruit	/ Morocco	Star Ruby	M	Good colour and flavour. No reported issues.	Brix: 9%			

Juicing Oranges	Argentina	Valencia	M	Overall good quality. Minor defects seen. Good appearance and clean fruits. Internally juicy flesh with good flavour.	Brix: 10% Sugar/Acid Ratio: 40:7			
Lemons	Spain / Morocco / Turkey	Primafiori	M	Spherical to oval shaped with a smooth thin rind, and a short nipple. Average of 5 seeds per fruit, high juice and acid.	Brix: 8 - 9%			
Limes	Brazil / Mexico		M	Low volumes of limes from Brazil due to cold weather conditions.	Brix: 8 - 9%			
Oranges	Spain / Morocco	Navel	M	Seedless with deep orange, easily peeled rinds. Yield less juice than most other oranges, but have a sweet and pleasant flavour.	Brix: 10 - 11% Sugar/Acid Ratio: 40:7			
Baby pineapple	South Africa		M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality				
Carambola - Star fruit	Malaysia		M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality				
Dragon Fruit	Thailand		M	Volumes & quality are improving				
Figs	Israel		M	Israeli season has started. Good quality and supply				
Kumquats	Gambia / Spain / SAF		M	Good quality and supply				
Loose Dates	Israel		M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality				
Mango	Brazil/Peru/Costa Rica/Gambia		M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality				
Papaya	Brazil		M	Volumes & quality are improving				
Passion Fruit	Kenya / Colombia / Israel		M	Kenyan pick predicted to improve in quality. Colombian stock is being used.				
Physalis	Colombia		M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality				
Pineapples	Costa Rica	MD2 / As Gold	M	The weather continues to be grim with relentless rain over the last few days. Fruit quality has been severely affected with more fruits being prone to water spotting and translucency. Our supplier is receiving their first trial container from Panama next week with a hope of better quality.	Brix: 12 - 13%			
Pomegranates	India / Israel		M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality				
Asparagus Large	Peru / Mexico		M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality				
Asparagus Tips (extra fine)	Thailand		M	Volumes & quality are improving				
Baby Aubergine	Kenya		M	Oval / round variety has been wiped out by the heavy rains in Kenya. No supply of this variety for the next 2 weeks when a new lot becomes available.				
Baby corn	India / Thailand		M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality				
Banana Leaves	Thailand		M	Volumes & quality are improving				
Bird Eye chillies - green	Kenya / Gambia		M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality				
Bird Eye chillies - red	Kenya/Gambia /Vietnam		M	Availability is improving				
Chillies - Green	Jordan / Kenya / Egypt		M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality				
Chillies - Red	Jordan/Kenya/ Egypt/Spain /Israel		M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality				
Curry Leaf	Kenya		M	Rainy season has affected crops. Limited volumes from Kenya.				
Extra Fine Beans	Kenya		M	Volumes & quality have started to improve.				
Fine Beans	Kenya / Gambia		M	Volumes & quality have started to improve.				
Ginger	China		M	Good quality, no issues.				
Horseradish	Holland		M	Good quality, no issues.				
Jalapeno	UK / Holland		M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality				
Jerusalem Artichokes	France		M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality				
Lemon Grass	Thailand		M	Volumes and quality are improving				

Okra	Kenya / India		M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality				
Radish Mooli	Holland		M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality				
Salsify	France		M	Good quality. Small volumes available.				
Sugar snap	Zimbabwe / Kenya / Peru / Guatemala		M	Volumes and quality are improving				
Sweet Potatoes	Honduras / Israel		M	Good quality, limited volumes.				
Top cut fine beans	Kenya		M	Volumes and quality have started to improve.				
Trimmed Fine Beans	Kenya		M	Volumes and quality have started to improve.				
Trimmed Mangetout	USA / Kenya / Zimbabwe		M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality				
Basil	Israel, Hungary, Spain, Kenya		M	Still in short supply due to the low temperatures in Israel. The quality of the Israeli product is good. Using the Spanish and Kenyan product as a backup.				
Bay	Colombia		M	Good quality, no issues.				
Chervil	Colombia, Israel		M	Good quality but it is still in short supply. Using the Israeli product as a backup.				
Chives	Israel, India		M	Indian chives are still limited supply but of good quality. Using the Israeli product as a backup.				
Coriander	Sapin, Turkey, Israel, Kenya, Cyprus		M	Good quality, no issues. Majority of product from Spain				
Curly & Flat Parsley			M	Good quality, no issues. Majority of product from Spain				
Dill	Spain, Kenya		M	Good quality, no issues.				
Marjoram			M	Good quality, no issues.				
Oregano	Colombia, Spain		M	Good quality, no issues.				
Mint			M	Good quality although some shortages due to the rain in Colombia. Using the Spanish product as a backup.				
Rosemary	Spain,		M	Good quality, no issues.				
Sage	Hungary, Israel		M	Good quality, no issues.				
Sorrel	Colombia, Israel		M	Good quality, but limited supply.				
Tarragon			M	Now in very short supply. The Israeli production is very low due to low light levels. Colombian product is short due to the high rainfall causing crop damage, so the volumes are restricted.				
Thyme	Spain		M	Good quality, no issues.				
Rocolla	Italy, Spain		M	Good quality, no issues.				
Red Chard			M	Good quality, no issues.				
Mizuna	English, Italy, Spain		M	Still arriving wet. Supplier is removing as much moisture from the packs as possible to avoid premature breakdown.				
Galia		Amaregal		Odd BSM found in isolated fruit. Generally good quality seen upon arrivals this week. Good flavour and texture.	Brix: 10 - 14.7%		Costa Rica / Honduras	Feb / Mar
Watermelon		Quetzali	E	Overall good products, only minor cosmetic defects seen. Eats well. Good internal colour.	Brix: 10-12%		Costa Rica / Honduras	Feb / Mar
Cantaloupe		Carribbean Dream		Quality remains good. Isolated minor sunken lesions seen. Good eating quality and high sugar levels.	Brix: 10 - 14.5%		Costa Rica / Honduras	Feb / Mar
Yellow Melons		Goldex, Natal		Generally good product found on the latest arrivals. Very isolated pale colour in odd melons. Good flavour and texture.	Brix: 10 - 14.5%		Costa Rica / Honduras	Feb / Mar
Edible Flowers	UK / Israel	Pansies	M	The edible flowers are good quality with no issues. Using Israeli product now.				
Chestnuts (vacuum packed)	France		M	Good quality, no issues.				
	Holland / Poland	Paris Brown	M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality				
		Portabello	M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality				
Exotic Mushrooms	China	Shiitake	M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality			France	End of Jan
	UK	Enoki	M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality				

	Leicestershire	Oyster (all)	M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality				
<b>Mushrooms</b>	UK / Ireland	Flat & Button	M	Good quality, no issues.				
<b>Onions</b>	UK / France / Holland	Shallots/Banana Shallots	M	Quality is generally good although round shallots are showing some bacterial issues due to heavy rain close to harvest.				
		Brown & Red		Quality is generally very good although you will see some staining on the current drilled onions as they are from our short term stores.				
<b>Prepared onions</b>	Poland	Brown & Red	S	Good quality. Firm and fresh. No issues.			Holland / NZ	May
<b>Potatoes</b>	UK Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Herefordshire, Norfolk, Fife	Estima, Harmony, Melody, Sylvana	M	Quality is generally good, but inevitably levels of black dot and silver scurf are rising. All supplies are now from cold store and sprouting is no longer an issue.		Estima 18.8% Harmony 17.2% Melody 18.7% Sylvana 17.8%		
	UK Shropshire	Maris Piper		Adequate supplies, frying well, good size.		21.7%		
	UK Lincolnshire, Yorkshire	King Edwards				20.9%		
	UK Shropshire	Desiree		Adequate supplies - good quality.		19.5%		
<b>Salad Potatoes</b>	UK Cambridgeshire / Cornwall	Juliette, Maris Peer	M	Generally good quality with bright skins.		Juliette: 16.8% Maris Peer: 18.6%	France	Nov - Jun if UK supply is tight
<b>Carrots</b>	UK	Chantenay	M	Good quality, no issues.				
	UK Nottinghamshire, Yorkshire, Norfolk	Nairobi	M	Good crop / quality, no reported issues			Scotland, France, Spain	May
<b>Celery</b>	Spain	Mexico	S	New season Spanish, no reported issues.			UK	End of June
<b>Parsnips</b>	UK Nottinghamshire	Palace	M	Good quality, no issues.			Spain	May
<b>Swede</b>	Scotland	Magres	M	Good quality, no issues.				
<b>Turnips</b>	UK Staffordshire		M	Good quality, no issues.			France	May
<b>Baby Beetroot</b>	France		M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality				
<b>Baby Carrots</b>	South Africa		M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality				
<b>Baby Courgettes</b>	South Africa / UK		M	Volumes & quality are improving				
<b>Baby Fennel</b>	South Africa		M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality				
<b>Baby Leeks</b>	South Africa / Morocco / UK		M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality				
<b>Cucumbers</b>	Spain		M	Transition of variety. 50% old crop and 50% new crop.			Holland	April/May
<b>Peppers</b>	Spain		M	<b>Red</b> - decrease in availability. Some problems for discoloured. <b>Green</b> - more of the growers will clean their farms and for this reason we expect an increase in volume for next week. Generally good quality. <b>Yellow / Orange</b> - expecting a decrease in availability due to low temperatures.			Holland	April/May
<b>Tomatoes</b>	Canary Is / Morocco / Spain / Egypt		M	<b>Vine tomatoes</b> - expecting a decrease in the volume for week 03. Generally good quality. <b>Plum and round tomatoes</b> - stable situation. No reported issues. <b>Cherry tomatoes</b> - volume and quality improving. Egyptian to be used as a contingency.			Holland	April/May
<b>Cos</b>	France / Spain		M	Good quality. Isolated thrip found and small amounts of aphid reported in the field. No issues seen on intake.			UK	May
<b>Fine Frisee</b>	France / Spain		M	Good quality. Some leaf issues, but trimming in field.			UK	May
<b>Iceberg</b>	Spain		M	Generally good quality. Weather has improved. Supplier cropping well ahead as product is growing quickly due to the warmer weather conditions.			UK	May
<b>Lambs Lettuce</b>	Italy		M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality				
<b>Little Gem</b>	Spain		M	Similar to the iceberg. Harvesting is well ahead of schedule and some heads are on the lighter side. Overall quality is good.			UK	May
<b>Lollo Biondi</b>	Spain		M	Good quality crop, no issues foreseen			UK	May

Lollo Rosso	France / Spain		M	Good quality crop, no issues foreseen			UK	May
Radicchio	UK / Italy		E	Crop is now starting to turn to a better colour				
Red Oakleaf	Spain / France		M	Good quality crop, no issues foreseen			UK	May
Avocado	Spain / Dom Rep	Hass	S	Good quality fruit. No reported issues.				
Plums	SAF	Sapphire, Pioneer	M	Good quality fruit. No reported issues.	Brix: 11 - 14%		Chile	Feb
Kiwi	Italy	Hayward	S	Quality is generally good. No reported issues.	Pressure: 1.0 - 4.0kg Brix: 10.5 -		Chile	April
Seedless Grape Red	SAF / Namibia	Flame	M	Moderate berry size and good brix, slightly soft with low levels of shatter. Switching to black seedles for 7 - 10 days on the 500gr punnets.	Brix: 16.5 - 18.5%		Peru	Feb
Seedless Grape Black	SAF	Midnight Beauty	M	Good berry size, crisp berries, good eating quality.	Brix: 16.3 - 18.5%			
Seedless Grape White	SAF	Prime	M	Large bold berries, moderate brix, minor 2nd stem dehydration, milky green colour. Good, crisp eating quality.	Brix: 17 - 20%		Chile	Feb
Apricots	SAF	Imperial	S	Good quality, no reported issues.	Brix: 10.5 - 12.0%		NZ	Feb
Nectarines (Yellow Flesh)	SAF	Alpine, Ruby Glo, Spring Bright, Diamond Bright, Luciana	S	Good quality.	Pressure: 3.6 - 6.4kg Brix: 10.8 - 12.5%		Chile	Feb
Peaches	SAF	Rich Lady, Jim Dandy, December Princess	S	Good quality.	Pressure: 3.6 - 5.4kg Brix: 10.8 - 13.3%		Chile	Feb
Butternut Squash	Argentina / SA Gambia / Israel		M	No issues. Stable supplies and good quality.				
Courgettes	Spain		M	Generally good quality.			UK, Holland	April/May
Yellow Patty Pans	South Africa		M	Generally good quality.				
Apples	France	Golden Delicious	M	Crisp and sweet. No issues.	Pressure: 5.5 - 6.5kg Brix: 11 -			
	France/ Belgium	Royal Gala	M	Crisp and sweet. No issues.	Pressure: 5.5 - 7kg Brix: 11 - 12%			
	France	Braeburn	M	Crisp and sweet. No issues.	Pressure: 5.5 - 7kg Brix: 11 - 12%			
	France	Granny Smith	M	Crisp and sweet. No issues.	Pressure: 6.5 - 7.5kg Brix: 11 -			
	France	Red Chief	M	Good quality, no issues	Pressure: 5.8 - 6.5kg Brix: 11 -			
Cooking Apples	UK Kent	Bramley	M	Good quality. Uniform shape and size.	Pressure: 6.5 - 8.0kg Brix: 10 -			
Pears	Belgium / UK Kent	Comice	M	RTE & dessert - good quality, no issues.	Pressure: 2.5 - 4.5kg Brix: 12 -			
	Belgium	Conference	M	Good quality, no issues.	Pressure: 4 - 7kg Brix: 12 - 13%			
Aubergines	Spain		M	Good quality. Expecting a stable situation during January.			UK, Holland	April/May