

CROP REPORT

Wednesday 30th October to Wednesday 6th November

Get the insight you need to plan more effectively and manage your menus with our latest report from the field, brought to you by our expert produce team.

Weather event



Last night (28 October), there was a major hailstorm in the Almeria region of Spain. The size of the hailstones has caused major damage to vehicles, and we are currently working to assess the impact on crops and growing facilities, including greenhouses. Some packhouses in the region have been temporarily closed.

While we are still assessing the damage, we have taken steps with suppliers to try to mitigate the impact on customers, but it is likely that there will be some market-wide impact, particularly on courgettes and aubergines, from the weekend. Once the outlook is clearer, we will provide a further update.

Salad seasonal update



We are managing the transition between the UK and Europe/North Africa well, with all crops currently on schedule. Cucumbers, aubergines and courgettes are already mostly Spanish, and peppers are expected to move early this week. There are some weather events which has the potential to impact aubergines and courgettes from this weekend (see weather event for more information).

Tomatoes will move to Morocco and Spain by the end of the week, all being well. The first tomato deliveries from the Canary Islands will be arriving in early November, around a couple of weeks earlier than last year, as we have put additional contingency plans in place as a result of market shortages and droughts last year.

Avocados



Over the past couple of weeks, we have seen some significant shipping delays with produce coming from Chile. This created some availability issues on Class 2 avocados.

While the new fruit has now arrived, it is early in the season and has been slow to ripen, exacerbating the issues across the market. However, we are not expecting any further supply problems, which should now return to normal.

Broccoli



There are some significant and ongoing market supply issues with broccoli. However, we have been able to manage supply well despite these market-wide challenges. Supply is extremely tight, and we are monitoring the crop very closely as there are some quality issues with this end of season product, for example with the produce yellowing.

We are working with suppliers on the transition to Spain, which will gradually increase in the coming weeks.

Green grapes



A concession for slight discolouration remains in place for green grapes, which have been affected by the extreme summer temperatures in southern Europe. This will end in early November when we start to receive Peruvian and Brazilian products. There is no impact on availability.

There are some concerns over the Peruvian and Brazilian harvests, which will mean that supply will be very tight through that season. However, we are working with our suppliers and do not expect any major supply problems.

Mushrooms



The situation with mushrooms across Europe is gradually improving, helping availability.

While the improvement in availability is good news, supply remains very tight. We are also monitoring quality very carefully and have seen a couple of rejections in the past week as the produce is not lasting as well as expected.

The problems are the remnants of the pan-European problems with compost, which had failed to get down to temperature causing the mycelium to burn.

Citrus



We are transitioning from a difficult southern hemisphere season to the northern hemisphere. In order to maintain availability, we have some concessions in place until November when we will be fully into the Spanish season.

We are mitigating some indifferent early season quality of Spanish satsumas by continuing to source South African easy peelers.

Lettuce



The cold and wet weather has slowed the growth of iceberg lettuce, where size remains small. We have a weight concession in place to maintain availability and allow farmers to harvest full fields.

Spanish produce is beginning to arrive and this will ramp up rapidly in the coming weeks.

Potatoes



Harvesting has slowly resumed following the very wet weather that we experienced over the past couple of weeks.

In the coming weeks, as most of the crop is lifted, we will be able to provide a fuller report on the season's outlook, although the indications are that the crop looks similar to this year.

Cauliflower



Cauliflower growth is slowing with the colder weather, however while market supply remains tight, it is stable. The weather will be critical to supply over the coming weeks but, at the moment, there are no major concerns about quality or availability ahead of the first Spanish product arriving in November to supplement the British season and maintain availability during the challenging periods.

CauliShoots



We continue to work with our suppliers to minimise the gap between the British and Spanish seasons. Growers have continued to harvest British product later than expected, but we are anticipating a challenging couple of weeks once British supplies finish and before the first Spanish deliveries arrive around the middle of November.

Curly kale



We are monitoring quality very closely as it has been adversely impacting the crop, with rejections due to yellowing. The produce is also not lasting as well as we would expect and we are working with suppliers to put contingencies in place to try to mitigate this, including lowering stock holdings and increasing delivery days where possible.

Limes



There are no availability issues or eating quality problems with limes, but the drought conditions in Brazil are impacting the colour of the skin. While this remains within specification, it is paler than the vivid green that we are used to seeing.

Strawberries



Following the challenging end to the British season, supply has now moved to Holland significantly ahead of the normal schedule. There have been some issues as we have transitioned between origins, but these are short-term and we expect supply to normalise very quickly.

Sweetheart cabbage



Demand is high for sweetheart cabbage. Spain is a little behind, but we are expecting our first deliveries shortly. Working with our suppliers, we continue to manage supply well, despite the challenges with UK supply.

MEET OUR SUPPLIERS
Working together to serve our customers amazing produce and products

To learn more about our suppliers, SCAN THE QR CODE.