

# CROP REPORT

Wednesday 31st July to Wednesday 7th August

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.

## Citrus – Oranges, lemons and easy peelers



Citrus is beginning to recover from the torrential rain that caused significant flooding in this key citrus-growing region of the Western Cape of South Africa.

While product has started to be harvested again, another growing region, Limpopo, has now been affected by frosts. This has impacted crop yields and reduced the quantity available for export.

This is likely to cause some difficulties in around a month's time. We are therefore working with suppliers to try to cover any anticipated gaps by sourcing from other regions and origins, for example Argentina.

## Granny Smith apples



As well as some ongoing supply issues with lower yields in the Southern Hemisphere harvest, there have been some significant delays in shipping. This has caused some market-wide availability issues.

However, we have been working with our suppliers and sourced additional stocks, which should be sufficient to cover any gaps until the delayed ships arrive. We expect this to be at the end of the week, after which we do not anticipate any further issues ahead of the new season.

## Washed Rocket



We are still experiencing some residual issues with washed leaf, particularly rocket, coming from Italy, due to the high temperatures that were experienced across the region.

While the product has minimal defects, it is dehydrated, so when washed it is deteriorating. We are working with the supplier to add extra checks and processes. They have also invested in additional machinery, which will help once fully operational.

In the meantime, we have identified some additional stocks from other European origins. We are also changing the seasonal mix to include chard in the place of rocket, to help mitigate the shortages.

## Green beans



The poor UK weather has led to some problems with the yield of green beans. We have been working with suppliers to manage the challenges, by increasing the flexibility of ordering and, where necessary, sourcing additional produce from Italy and the Netherlands.

We are not anticipating any supply issues and expect availability to improve in the coming days.

## Oyster Mushrooms



There have been some very hot temperatures across parts of Eastern Europe, which has impacted the growth of mushrooms. While the crop is grown indoors, when temperatures peak, the substrate may not reach correct temperature as quickly as required, resulting in lower yields.

We are not expecting to see any shortages, as we are working with our UK supplier to manage additional supply.

## Potatoes



We are starting to see some ad hoc, early new season produce, but we are not expecting the main crop for another month.

This should bring some relief to the availability issues we've seen over the past year. However, it remains too early to be definitive about the yields from the new season crop, with initial indications suggesting that it is on the low side.

## Basil



Around 40% of our basil is now coming from vertical farms. We are not currently seeing any shortages, and this helping to address some of the challenges we are finding with Kenyan produce, across growing and transportation.

## Berries



The recent warmer weather and sunlight is helping the crop to recover from some very challenging growing conditions. It does remain difficult, but there is light at the end of the tunnel, and we are not expecting any issues with availability.

## Melons



As we reported last week, excessive temperatures in the Murcia region have been causing some internal quality issues with melons.

We are currently transitioning to La Mancha, where conditions are cooler, and quality and availability should improve. The market will be tight as we transition to the new region, particularly for the cantaloupe variety, but we do not believe that this will lead to any major shortages.

## Asparagus



We remain in full supply and there are no quality issues. However, the market is still waiting for exports to increase following the Senasa strike (the DEFRA equivalent in Peru).

## Cavolo Nero



We are continuing to see an improvement in availability as growers harvest from new fields, with availability expected to return to normal this week, subject to the weather remaining positive.

## Cucumbers



Market demand for cucumbers is very high. We are working with suppliers and managing demand well.

