

CROP REPORT

Wednesday 23rd October to Wednesday 30th October

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.

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 at the beginning of next week.

Tomatoes will move to Morocco and Spain by the end of next week, with the first tomato deliveries from the Canary Islands arriving in early November.

Round tomatoes from Spain are not quite ready and we are taking limited supply from Holland. There is some variance in colour stage, but we are managing availability well.

Citrus



Some concessions remain in place as we work to maintain good availability at the end of the South African season.

The size concessions will stay on medium oranges and prepack lemons, which will help us to proactively manage supply until the arrival of the Spanish season in November.

We are continuing with supply of South African easy peelers for the next few weeks to avoid some indifferent early season quality of Spanish satsumas.

Mushrooms



The situation with mushrooms across Europe remains very challenging, but we are working very closely with suppliers and have managed to minimise any shortages.

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

While the improvement in availability is good news, supply is very tight, so any rejections or quality issues could impact stocks.

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 plans for the transition to Spain and expect the first produce to arrive this week, after which we will see a gradual increase in available volumes.

Limes



There are no availability issues 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.

This is not affecting the eating quality, and will be resolved once there has been some significant rainfall.

Potatoes



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

Scotland remains significantly behind other regions, but as we source from across the country, we are not expecting this to cause any undue problems.

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.

CauliShoots



We are working to extend the British CauliShoots season, which will help to bridge the gap between the UK and, slightly delayed, Spanish seasons.

Spanish growers are also accelerating the growth of the plants to try to minimise transition issues.

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.

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.

Arrivals are expected from Spain this week, which will then ramp up rapidly 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 products. There is no impact on availability.

Sweetheart cabbage



Demand is high for sweetheart cabbage, which will remain British this week. Spain is a little behind, but we are expecting our first deliveries next week. Working with our suppliers, we continue to manage supply well, despite the challenges with UK supply.

Tenderstem Broccoli



The hotter weather, which had been expected to cause flowering in the crop, was not as significant as had originally been expected. With the arrival of some Spanish product, suppliers have been able to grade out any affected crops, with no impact on supply.

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