

Crop Report

Wednesday 7th May to Wednesday 14th May

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.

Berries



We have seen some minor quality issues with the end-of-season berries from Spain and Morocco.

Additional checks and procedures are in place throughout the chain, including packing and dispatching on the same day, which should help minimise the problems.

Fortunately, the good British weather means that the transition to the UK is imminent with the first strawberries and blackberries expected as early as next week. We anticipate that raspberries will take about a week longer.

Once we are in the British season, the quality should improve.

Lemons



We are expecting a three-week delay to the start of the core South African season, due to some heavy rains and severe flooding.

There have been some very challenging market supply issues for lemons and our procurement team has worked hard with our suppliers to avoid any major supply issues, ordering additional Spanish product to try to compensate for the lack of Southern Hemisphere produce.

However, it is likely to be a very difficult period from the middle of May to the beginning of June and concessions will be required to help maintain availability. We expect the main challenges to be on pre-pack lines in around three weeks' time.

Melons



There have been some issues with availability following the poor weather conditions that led to the end of the Central American season. However, we are starting to see a significant improvement as the transition to the Almeria region in Spain is well underway.

There may be some further issues in around eight weeks' time as we move to the main Spanish crop and will be maintaining a close watching brief on this.

We will provide further updates as the season progresses.

British Basil



Following the disruption to British supply caused by the demise of a large vertical grower which went into administration, the good news is that outdoor-grown British basil is now available.

British Chives



British chives will end in the next few days, following some issues with our vertically farmed supplier. Until the start of the traditional chive season, beginning of June, produce from Morocco will be available.

Passion Fruit



Storms and heavy rain in Colombia have led to the destruction of a significant part of the crop. This means that we will have to rely on produce that is air-freighted from Kenya for the next five weeks.

Parsnips



We are approaching the end of the British parsnip season. We will transition to Spain from the middle to the end of May.

We are pleased to report that the seasons are currently lining up well. However, we are maintaining a close watch on the Spanish crop, as there may be some problems caused by the heavy rains during the growing period.

Lettuce



The good news is that the UK season is starting around two weeks early, helped by the warm weather.

The early season British crop is being supported by some Spanish produce, but this will finish shortly.

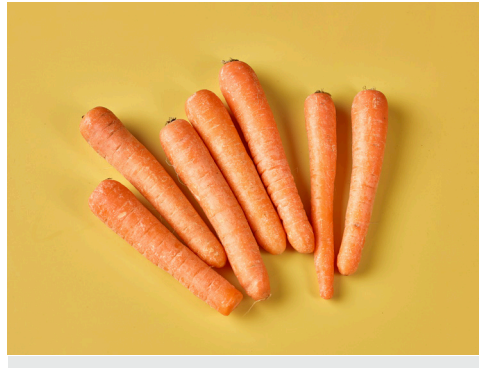
Sweet Potatoes



We are expecting the poor American harvest, which is around 40% down on a standard year, to have some impact on the market shortly.

There is better news from other origins, with Argentina in particular looking more positive than had previously been expected. We will continue to work with suppliers to try to mitigate the issues, for example looking at increasing supply from other origins.

Carrots



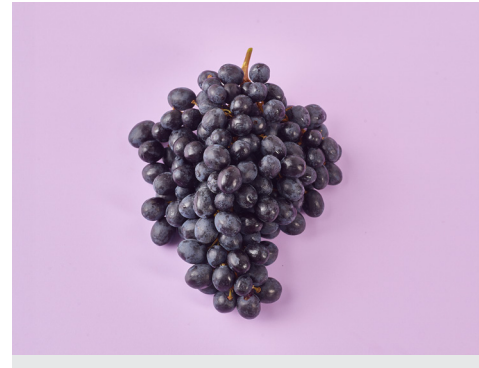
We are approaching the end of the British carrot season and, while availability remains plentiful, there are some quality issues. We are advising customers to keep carrots stored at as low a temperature as possible, which will help to maintain shelf-life.

CauliShoots®



We are expecting the British season to start in June.

Grapes



As is normal for the time of year, there will be a short pause in the availability of Sable and Cotton Candy grapes as the Chilean season ends around mid-to-late May. This will last until we see the first arrivals of Egyptian and Spanish fruit around mid-July.

Asparagus



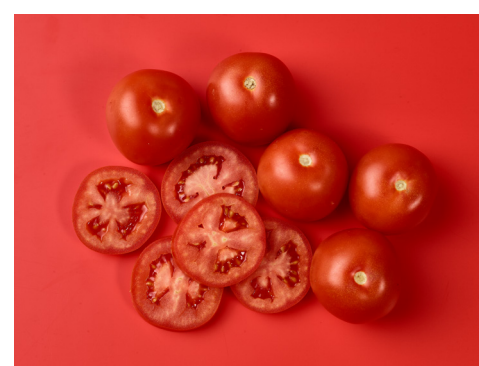
The much-loved British asparagus season is running well, with good quality and availability. The crop is expected to be available until around the traditional finish of 21 June.

Peppers



We have now moved the majority of our pepper supply to Holland, which has had a positive impact on the quality of peppers. There are still some Spanish peppers, but these are also holding up well.

Tomatoes



Most of the crop has now moved to Holland, with the quality of most varieties very good.

We have introduced a new, Dutch direct grower this year, which is already delivering some excellent quality produce.

Premium tomatoes from Isle of Wight Tomatoes are now readily available and are great quality.

Eggs



The announcement of the removal of the Housing Order in Northern Ireland from 10 May 2025 reflects the reducing risk from Avian Influenza across the country. While other Housing Orders remain in place across several high risk regions of Great Britain, there have been limited outbreaks.

Enhanced biosecurity measures, such as no watering on the range, control of visitors and enhanced disinfection remain in place to minimise the risk to their birds.