

Crop Report

Wednesday 24th December to Wednesday 7th January

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.

Tomatoes



Cooler conditions in Morocco have slowed the growth of larger tomatoes, creating minor short-term availability concerns. Smaller sizes may appear in the immediate term, but overall impact is expected to remain limited.

Berries



Cold and wet weather in Morocco has created some minor quality challenges for strawberries. This has been compounded by port delays due to farmer action.

Blueberries have also faced significant shipping delays caused by congestion and adverse weather. While these issues have led to market-wide shortages, we have successfully mitigated any major impact on customers.

Tenderstem Broccoli



Persistent heavy rainfall has affected harvests, resulting in quality and availability challenges across the market. We have worked closely with suppliers and sourced from additional origins to maintain supply, and, while we do not anticipate further major disruption, the market remains very short of product.

Cabbage



Maintaining weight continues to be challenging, so size concessions for red and white cabbage remain in place. Some quality concerns from oedema persist, but we are working closely with growers to ensure the best possible product reaches customers.

Easy Peelers



We are completing the transition to Moroccan produce over the next two weeks. Sizes are improving as the season progresses, though some concerns remain. A size concession will remain in place until the end of the month.

Cucumbers



Market supply remains tight due to high demand and the crop's slow recovery from gaps in supply due to earlier warm weather. We have managed shortages effectively, limiting customer impact, and expect improved availability after Christmas.

Peppers



Thrips pest issues have appeared unusually early in Spain's Almería region. While eating quality is unaffected, appearance has been impacted.

To mitigate risk, we have expanded our supplier base to include other Spanish regions as well as some additional origins. Short-term, colder weather should help reduce the impact, but as temperatures rise later in the season, challenges are likely to increase.

Transportation update



UK ports have experienced significant congestion during the busy Christmas period, creating challenges for shipping. While some products have been affected, we have managed the situation well, with only a limited impact on supply. Conditions have improved slightly this week, though the situation remains fragile.

In addition, there are concerns with some road transport. Although we are not currently experiencing any delivery delays with our own European haulier, there are still difficulties with transportation at the French border due to a farmer's strike. This is affecting produce coming from Spain and Morocco.

In the case of Morocco, this is aggravating an already difficult situation, with customs delays at the border crossing from Morocco into Spain frequently leading to hold ups of 24-48 hours. We have been proactively monitoring the situation for several weeks now and, despite the challenges in the market, we have worked effectively with our suppliers to mitigate the impact on customers.

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Registered office at Enterprise House, Eureka Business Park, Ashford, Kent TN25 4AG