

CROP REPORT

Wednesday 8th January to Wednesday 15th 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.

Weather-related shipping delays



Storms and poor weather conditions have increased the shipping delays that the UK experienced across Christmas and the New Year. These have now extended well into January although, if there are no further delays, we expect deliveries to properly resume this week.

We are managing most of the affected products well, including grapes, melons and easy peelers, working with suppliers to identify additional supplies where necessary. However, as the problems have been building for some time, there are concerns around limes, which could see some short-term shortages.

Once the fruit arrives, we will be closely monitoring quality as the products have been in transit for longer than anticipated.

Blood oranges



The warmer than expected weather in Spain during December has resulted in blood oranges not colouring up as they should.

This has delayed the harvest by around a week, but the first deliveries should arrive around the middle of next week, after which we anticipate good quality fruit as the season gets into full swing.

Brassicas



Currently, we are managing availability well across the brassica category, with no major issues. Demand over the festive period, along with the challenges of the recent storms and lower temperatures, which has impacted the crop's growth, are affecting overall availability, but are not causing any major concerns for us.

We are monitoring Spring Greens, which may be adversely impacted by the weather in three to four weeks' time, but it is too early to provide an accurate forecast.

Potatoes



Supply of potatoes remains steady as we move into the New Year and there are no major availability issues.

There are likely to be some challenges on salad potatoes, due to the lack of carryover stock creating shortages, and for large bakers, due to the limited growing time. We are working with suppliers on potential contingency plans in the event of problems later in the season.

We have introduced a second prepped potato supplier to help ensure consistent supply and quality, which is working well.

Cherry tomatoes



A cold snap in Spain has caused some issues for salad growers, slowing the growth of the crop as it fails to colour-up. We are working with growers across Spain and Morocco to manage demand, which is working well in a tight market.

Chives



There are some short-term availability issues with chives from Kenya due to limited freight flights over the Christmas period. This may have some impact on supply, but any problems are likely to be brief as we expect supply to return to normal in the next few days.

Lettuce



While we are not experiencing any shortages, there are some market-wide challenges caused by lower temperatures in Spain. This has been exacerbated by strong demand over the festive period. We continue to work with our suppliers to manage supply and are currently not expecting any major issues, although the market is very tight.

MEET OUR SUPPLIERS

Working together to serve our customers amazing produce and products

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

