



24 Dec 2024

Market conditions	<p>The anticipated strong sales for Saturday, Sunday and Monday have not occurred with most commentators saying sales have been steady, not spectacular. There is no backlog in coolstores, reflecting that sales volumes have been good all through the Summerfruit season so far.</p> <p>There is nervousness in the cherry market with Central Otago now picking plenty of fruit and the supply lines full of Marlborough and Hawke's Bay fruit. The breakdown of another Cook Straight ferry is not helping smooth logistics.</p>			
North Island growing conditions	<p>Growing Degree Days (GDD) continue to be normal for this time of the year at about 600 units since 1st of September. There was some rain on most days last week with 11-18mm spread over 5 or 6 days of the week. The season is still 12-14 days ahead of normal.</p> <p>The coming week will again be cooler, the wind will be coming from all directions and there is 70-80 mm of rain predicted. Cherries are all finished from Hawkes Bay with the last of this fruit working through the supply chain.</p>			
South Island growing conditions	<p>Central Otago GDD are now 370 to 400 units, which is normal to slightly better than normal. Harvest timing is now close to what would usually be anticipated. The amount of forecast rain has not eventuated but there has been some, particularly in the more southern areas.</p> <p>The major feature for the coming week is rain with 20-50mm in the forecast. We will wait to see what actually falls but there is continuing wariness for the cherry harvest.</p>			
cherries	Available fruit volume	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The market is full, and this is reflected in the prices, which are more akin to what might be expected in January. ➤ All fresh supply is from Central Otago with a large range of varieties being picked. Sonnet® and Santana® are now under way from the late starting areas, while early blocks are starting Lapins and Rainier. There is still some Dawson, Chelan and Starletta® being picked. ➤ Rain has spilt fruit and more splitting is anticipated in the coming week. ➤ Some growers are in a bit of a picking lull at the moment. 				
apricots	Available fruit volume	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There will be a reduced apricot supply as Hawke's Bay finishes Kioto® and Clutha Gold any day now. ➤ Central Otago is picking Summer Spark, the newly named NZSummer 4, and Castlebright. Bigger volumes of Sundrop will be picked in the new year. 				
nectarines	Available fruit volume	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Early Star is finishing now with the honey nectarine Mid Star, and classic Firebrite starting. ➤ There is strong supply of white the nectarines Gaylene, Queen Giant and Chrystal available. These nectarines are very good eating. 				
peaches	Available fruit volume	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The supply of peaches is still tight but will build in the coming period. Rich Lady and Improved Flavorcrest are available now. Varieties coming soon include Scarlet O'Hara and then Sweet Dream. ➤ Tiny harvests of Golden Belle will start soon but there will be no real volume for another 10 days. 				
plums	Available fruit volume	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Purple Majesty is the main variety at present, along with some Black Splendour. Fortune and the next round of Black Diamond harvest will start next week. ➤ Red Beaut harvest continues in Central Otago. Other varieties being picked and sent north include Wilson's Early, Billington and Duff's Early Jewel. 				

Note: The information supplied is based on communication with summerfruit growers, marketers, retailers and other relevant industry parties. Information supplied on cherries, apricots, nectarines, peaches and plums can alter after publishing due to unexpected weather events, market forces, and other events relevant to the industry. Seek daily advice on supply from your summerfruit supplier.