



28 Jan 2025

Market conditions	<p>The market is still slower than is ideal and has been so for two or more weeks. There are plenty of alternative fruit types available including the first of the new season's apples.</p> <p>There is an oversupply of cherries with only the big fruit selling. This situation is predicted to have an impact on the price of other summerfruit, except for peaches.</p> <p>With back-to-school underway, there is hope that sales will pick up at the end of this week.</p>			
North Island growing conditions	<p>The Growing Degree Days (GDDs) are at best average, but often behind the past four years, which is an extension of the post-Christmas weather.</p> <p>The coming week again looks to be warm but not hot, with bits and pieces of rain, a dominance of cloudy easterlies, and Potential Evapotranspiration (PET) in the 3-5 mm/day range.</p> <p>Several growers and packers are now finishing with summerfruit and moving onto picking and packing apples.</p>			
South Island growing conditions	<p>Central Otago is not yet having consistently hot and dry weather, but it is pretty good. This week will be mild, cloudy, with a few dribbles of rain possible, and generally light winds. PET will be in the 3-6 mm/day range.</p> <p>GDDs have not yet caught up to previous season's' GDDs at some weather stations, while at others, things are normal.</p> <p>The cherry harvest has finished for many except for those with very late varieties or who are growing on higher elevations.</p>			
cherries	Available fruit volume	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The cherry market is under pressure but there's hope that volumes will have cleared by the end of this week. ➤ Small size fruit is not moving, and extra volume – some not suitable for export – has entered the New Zealand market. ➤ The unknown factor is how much fruit is being held in coolstores. ➤ Picking and packing will continue for another two weeks with varieties such as Sweet Valentine® and Sentennial®. There is still a little Stardust®, Staccato® and Kordia® from the late maturing orchards. 				
apricots	Available fruit volume	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Central Otago Sundrop is all but finished with most of the supply being Clutha Gold. ➤ Other varieties available include Vulcan, Valley Gold, Clutha Fire and NZSummer 2, which is now called SummerPassion. Moorpark harvest will start next week. ➤ The rain last week does not seem to have caused any major skin marking. Milder temperatures are slowing ripening, which is keeping supply and demand balanced. 				
nectarines	Available fruit volume	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ From the Hawke's Bay, Late Star Hunny style nectarines have another 10 days of sales available. Classic style varieties include Orion, Nectaross®, Valentine and Fantasia. August Fire has started with a few nibble picks. ➤ Central Otago is picking Spring Red, Big Orange and Spring Bright. Mid Star will start later this week. 				
peaches	Available fruit volume	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sweet Dream, Tropical Candy, Coconut Ice (a white fleshed non-melting variety), Flamecrest and Rome Star are still available in varying volumes from the Hawke's Bay. Black Peach, in limited quantities, will be available soon. ➤ Golden Belle is about halfway through its season with Tatura Star starting next week. Peacharines supply is still strong. ➤ Central Otago is picking Rich Lady, Mellow Yellow and Lady Red. Next week will see the start of Flamecrest and Sweet Dream for some orchards. Flatto white is selling now. 				
plums	Available fruit volume	LOW	MED	HIGH

- A consistent volume is being offered.
- Fortune has been picked and mostly sold, and Prime Time will be selling for another week. There are a few Flavour Blast on the market, with Autumn Honey, Angelino and Plum Dinga available next week.
- Greengage harvest in Central Otago is due next week as is Fortune, with Amber Jewel not too far away.

Market update by Richard Mills, Technical Advisor, Summerfruit NZ, email richard.mills@summerfruitnz.co.nz

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.