



31 Dec 2024

<b>Market conditions</b>	<p>Market conditions post-Christmas are as one might anticipate, a bit flat and variable. Retail in general is back on previous years, and this is the situation with fruit as well.</p> <p>On the bright side fruit that is coming into wholesale warehouses is moving out again, so there are no backlogs.</p>			
<b>North Island growing conditions</b>	<p>After a fantastic hot and dry run of weather the switch seems to have turned with cooler temperatures last week and about 40mm of rain across the stonefruit growing areas. There was a windy day which blew a limited amount of fruit to the ground and broken a few branches.</p> <p>The coming week will be similar with 50-80 mm of rain predicted for the week and temperatures in the teens to low twenties. Potential evapotranspiration (PET) will be mostly 2-4 mm/day which is significantly lower than the 6 and 7 mm/day that was the norm a couple of weeks ago.</p> <p>The long-term forecasters had suggested a shift to more La Nina type conditions at years end. We wait to see if this will eventuate. Even with the cooler weather, the harvest is still 10-14 days ahead of normal.</p>			
<b>South Island growing conditions</b>	<p>Central Otago too has had cooler temperatures mixed in with some more typical 28°C to 32°C days along with bits and pieces of rain adding up to 20 mm for the week.</p> <p>The coming week will be cooler, with 13°C to 25°C maximums and some rain. More rain is predicted in the southern valleys than in the north, but only 10-15mm across the week. This is not ideal cherry weather. The stop start nature of harvesting may well continue.</p>			
<b>cherries</b>	Available fruit volume	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Quality large fruit is holding a price premium. The market is a bit all over the place with plenty of supply and soft fruit being offered sale. Others say that the market is tidy, that supply is not quiet there. Growers will not start harvesting again until after the statutory holiday break.</li> <li>➤ Generally, Santina® and Sonnet® are finished. Some have started Stella and Lapins, but many will hold off until next year. Rainier and Starletta® continue to be picked and are selling well where the fruit is large and clean.</li> </ul>				
<b>apricots</b>	Available fruit volume	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Hawkes Bay harvest has finished with only stored fruit available now.</li> <li>➤ Central Otago is harvesting Castlebright, with nibble picks of Sundrop and Clutha Sun starting.</li> </ul>				
<b>nectarines</b>	Available fruit volume	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Supply is still only moderate with Mid Star, Firebright, Gaylene, Queen Giant and Honey Royale nectarines available. Blazing Star harvest will be next week.</li> <li>➤ Central Otago is now picking more nectarines that are being sold in local fruit stalls.</li> </ul>				
<b>peaches</b>	Available fruit volume	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Sweet Dream will be the mainstay of supply from Hawke's Bay for the next two weeks. Golden Bells picks are in full swing from Bay View, with the Heretaunga Plains supply due next week. Other varieties that have started or are about to include Velvet Sister and Doris.</li> <li>➤ Central Otago is picking Spring Crest and Spring Lady, with Crown Princess due next week.</li> </ul>				
<b>plums</b>	Available fruit volume	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Black Diamond harvest will recommence at the weekend, with Purple Majesty still available. Fortune harvest is now beginning with Primetime due in a week.</li> <li>➤ Red Beaut from Central Otago is now finished, so supply now is of Wilson's Early, Billington, Duff's Early Jewel and Rose Zee.</li> </ul>				

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.