



5 March 2025

Market conditions	<p>As it was last week so it is again, as it has been all season, quiet but ticking along. Retail is attempting to hold prices up, which will slow the volume of sales, noting that sales of fruit have been restrained all season.</p> <p>The late start to the Central Otago summerfruit harvest has meant that this fruit has bumped into the early harvest of Hawke's Bay pipfruit. There are also many other fruit options for consumers to purchase.</p> <p>For the first time this year, there are a few reports of poor quality, mealy nectarines.</p>			
North Island growing conditions	<p>Growing Degree Days (GDDs) continue to be low to middling, with the occasional very hot day in the mixture. Total accumulation is still higher further away from the coast – as is normal.</p> <p>The coming week again looks to be generally mild, with a bit of drizzle, cloudy and Potential Evapotranspiration (PET) of 3-4 mm/day. Soil moisture reserves will now be low on unirrigated ground.</p> <p>Harvest of summerfruit from Hawke's Bay is down to two varieties of plums.</p>			
South Island growing conditions	<p>Last week was warm and sometimes hot, with very little rain and PET in the 2-5 mm/day range. These are good growing conditions for summerfruit.</p> <p>This week will be generally cooler, with some clear days and some cloudy days, very little if any rain, and wind from all quarters. PET will be in the 2-4 mm/day range, which is the same as last week.</p> <p>Commentators have mentioned concern about the high volumes of nectarines that are being offered for sale.</p> <p>The harvest of nectarines, peaches and plums could well be finished in three weeks.</p>			
cherries	Available fruit volume	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Limited volumes are still available occasionally in supermarkets. 				
apricots	Available fruit volume	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There is a little Clutha Gold still to be sold, with Nevis and the Summer series on the market. ➤ Harvest, but not yet packing, is nearly complete. 				
nectarines	Available fruit volume	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Central Otago has all but finished sales of Fantasia, Orion and Venus. There is still a little Late Star remaining, to move through the packing and sales phases. ➤ Early maturing orchards have started August Red to be followed by August Fire. Bon Bon will add to the current high volume of nectarines soon. 				
peaches	Available fruit volume	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Peaches have briefly fallen into a supply hole. ➤ Varieties available from Central Otago at present include Elegant Lady, Peacharines, Tatura Star with CalRed next. ➤ Flattos are now selling out. 				
plums	Available fruit volume	LOW	MED	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Royal Star harvest has started in Hawke's Bay, with Malone to come in a week or two. ➤ A little Black Doris and Plum Dinga can still be found, along with SonGold, Freedom, Omega and Angelino from Central Otago. 				

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.