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Market

REPORT

February 2024

FRUIT

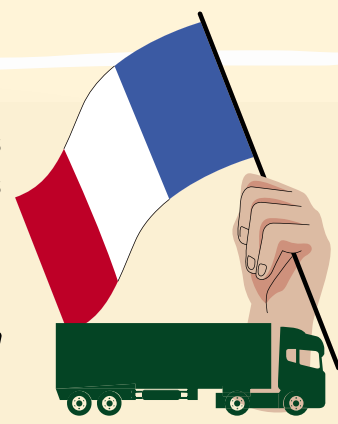
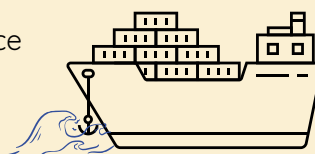
Seen as the month of February is all about love let's see what fruits Fresh Connect are loving at the moment. **Egyptian Oranges** of all sizes are great value for money and packed full of flavour. **Blood Oranges** are still seeing good volumes from Italy and boast a stunning colour flesh. **Nadorcotts** are also bursting with flavour and availability high. **Lychees** have been coming in small amounts but definitely worth a try. Spanish/Moroccan **Strawberries** are great at the moment but will be in high demand around Valentines Day. Spanish **Lemons** are in good supply too, this is perfect for Pancake Day middle of February. We love supporting British and **Yorkshire Rhubarb** is one of the finest.



Sadly **Seville Oranges** are drawing to an end after a very short season. **Melons & Pineapples** are in short supply at the moment, this is due to a lot of shipping delays and high winds coming into ports in Brazil. We are also eagerly awaiting Honduras Melons to begin this month. **Plums & Grapes** are also going to be tricky with limited supply due to shipping restrictions on the Red Sea. English **Apple** season has been fantastic, however our grower at Victoria Farm has come to an end earlier than expected, despite this, we are continuing to source English from alternative growers. **Mangoes** are also a product we are keeping a close eye on as volumes seem to be diminished due to issues in Peru.

There are mass disruptions on the Red Sea at the moment which is causing huge problems with international shipments arriving into UK ports at the expected delivery times. This is resulting in boats having to take longer diversion routes in order to deliver the produce.

It's not only boats that are having difficulties, mass protests in France are causing a lot of disruption to lorries in Europe.



VEGETABLES

Let's kick things off with **Cabbages**, Portugese Hispi is coming in excellent quality. We're still seeing small amounts of **Savoy** but volumes have slowed down due to crops previously being affect by frost.. This is the same for **Kale & Calvolo Nero (Black Cabbage)**. A couple of highly underrated root veggies are **Swede & Turnips** which are great for winter months. **Celeriac & Jerusalem Artichokes** are also an excellent choice. **Sweet Potatoes** are always a firm favourite and very diverse product.

Something to look forward to towards the end of the month will be **Jersey Royal Mids & Ware** Potatoes. However, important to note that they start off with limited supply at a premium price. On the topic of **Potatoes** this season has seen the lowest plantings in living memory due to heavy increases on production costs. Extensive areas have been flooded and will not be harvested and those that have been harvested during this wet period have started to rot. In particular large chipping potatoes and jacket size 40's are looking like the most impacted. **Cauliflower & Broccoli** seem to be stable at the moment after a turbulent period. Bad weather conditions could affect this. Chinese new crop of **Ginger** is starting so volumes could be short, we have Brazilian crop as a back up option, be aware it cuts 'blue'. We all know the challenges over the last few weeks with **Asparagus** importation from Peru. However we are eagerly anticipating supply from Mexican crops coming into the market anytime soon. Fingers crossed by the end of this month we may even see very early sightings of New Forest English **Asparagus**if we are lucky.

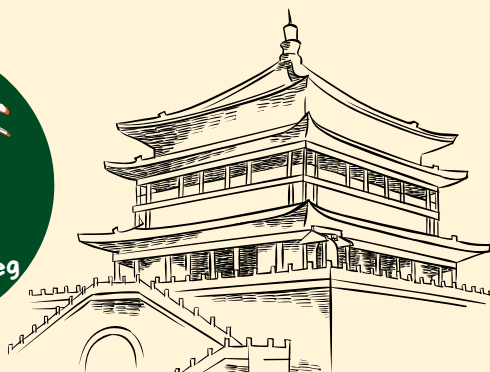


SALADS

Due to cold snaps around Europe we are struggling for quality on whole head **Lettuces (cos, iceberg, gem)**. This also has an affect on **Mixed Leaf, Spinach & Rocket**. We aim to get the best quality possible on a nightly basis. **Peppers** are costing above average due to cold temperatures in Spain. Moroccan supply is still there but quality not as good. All **Tomatoes** are steady at the moment coming from Egypt & Morocco. Notoriously, February isn't a good month for **Avocados**. This is due to winter countries such as Chile finishing early, Israel experiencing issues from farm to export due to the war escalating & Peruvian is an approximate 8 week delay on supply.

MUSHROOMS & FORAGED

Hopefully we will see early sightings of **Wild Garlic**. Not a great time of year for Wild Mushrooms but **Chanterelle, Girolles, Pied du Mouton, Trompette & Morels** are around in small quantities.



To celebrate the Chinese New Year we have a selection Exotic produce such as Dragon Fruit, Lychees, Star Fruit & Tamarillo available to order; check with the office for availability