



freshconnect.

Market

REPORT

June 2024



It has been a tough time for us Greengrocers the last couple of months. The weather has not been on our side around the globe & things do not seem to be getting better any time soon. On top of weather issues, we also have the usual change of seasons happening. A perfect storm they could say. Availability on key lines has been extremely difficult & the market is volatile. Please be assured we are doing everything we can to navigate this difficult situation.



FRUIT

We have had the delight of **English Strawberries** from Hugh Lowe Farm in Maidstone for the past month and we are pleased that **English Raspberries & Blackberries** have also started and are delicious! As we know, Stone Fruit season is another highlight this time of year and **Peaches, Nectarines, Apricots & Cherries** are all in full swing. **Flat Peaches** are also a lovely addition, we hope to see **Flat Nectarines** follow suit shortly. European season **Melons (ogen, galia, honeydew & watermelon)** are flowing nicely. Our ready to eat Peruvian **Mangoes** are coming in full of flavour and lovely and juicy.

Easy Peel/Satsumas/Clementines are struggling for quality as we are still waiting for the season to kick in fully. You might notice a paler colour skin and slightly sour taste as a result of this. We are hopeful that as the season progresses we will see improvements.



It's not **'Grape'** news as we are seeing a potential gap in the market from Southern Hemisphere crops finishing and European crops starting, in particular **Black/Red Grape** variety is most impacted. **Kiwi** availability seems to be sloping off and running slim as we are waiting for new Italian crops to start. **Plums** are not great at the moment as South African/Peruvian is finishing. We have seen some Spanish crops but it's not up to standard yet, quite sour in taste and price slightly inflated. **Pineapples** were a bit tricky towards the end of May with container delays and poor weather in Costa Rica. We are pleased that we have already seen these issues starting to improve.

VEGETABLES

A couple of positives for this month are that **English Broad Beans** and **Fresh Peas** have begun. We saw the first arrival into the market and can confirm they look fantastic, definitely worth incorporating these into menus and special dishes as they are very seasonal. **Sweet Potato** is a good option at the moment, but we have also seen some delightful **Purple Sweet Potato**, which is always a firm favourite as adds a pop of colour to the plate. June is fantastic for UK grown produce and **English Baby Vegetables** are thriving at the moment. Grown in Colchester Essex, we have seen all varieties of **baby beetroots (purple, golden, candy), baby carrot, fennel, leek and turnips**. They are great quality and consistent in size. **Jersey Royal Mids & Wares** are an excellent choice and amazing combined with our **English Asparagus** from our grower in Rogate, Hampshire. We only have until the middle of June to enjoy what's left of the **English Asparagus** season. Make the most of it as the season officially finishes on the 21st June but due to poor weather conditions our grower anticipates it could be earlier this year to help save next year's crops.

Carrot season is flowing and we have seen massive improvements from where we were last month.. **Parsnips** on the other hand have shown some problems. English crops have finished, we have tried to move over to Scottish but the fields are flooded so waiting on Spanish season to begin. This will hopefully only be a short gap in the market but as we know weather conditions can always cause unexpected issues. English **Beetroot & Swede** will also move over to Spanish season this month. **Cauliflower** has certainly been keeping us on our toes and has had a turbulent month or so. UK summer crop has finally started but unfortunately a lot of the crop has been damaged by rain. This has meant price and quality is impacted and availability is short.

We have seen the first of the **English Broccoli** on the market, and the quality looks great. We will be switching over shortly from Spanish. **Tenderstem, Mange Tout & Sugar Snap** from Kenya were impacted last month due to a prolonged wet season but all seem to be showing signs of improvements. UK grown **Kale & Black Cabbage** has finished, Spanish will fill the gap temporarily until English begins again. We are relying on French & Spanish crops of **Leeks** as the poor weather has cut the UK season short early. We're waiting on new crop Dutch/Belgian **Leeks** to start this month too.

Potatoes have most certainly been the biggest problem product of this year so far and unfortunately doesn't seem to be getting better anytime soon. Farmers have had a nightmare with heavily saturated fields damaging crops and new crop is not up to standard either due to ongoing weather conditions.

SALADS

English Salads have all started (**Lollo Rosso, Lollo Biondi & Oakleaf**). These are grown in Kent so fantastic for low food miles and great to support British. **Baby Spinach, Mixed Leaf & Rocket** are also English now. **Iceberg, Cos & Gem lettuce** have followed suit and moved over to UK grown too. We are waiting on UK **Celery** to start in the coming weeks. Raddichio is at the end of old italian crop, waiting on new to start, so could see some quality issues. **Heritage Tomatoes** are a good option, fantastic colour and flavour on both English and French varieties. All **Tomato** varieties are great value for money and lots to choose from. **Cucumbers, Peppers & Aubergines** are all stable at the moment. Availability of **Avocados** remains good and in full supply. **Red Chicory** has caused a few issues in the past month due to an infection in the crop, this has meant minimal supply coming in and highly inflated prices. **White Chicory** seems better and a good alternative in the interim.

