

APRIL 2025

MARKET REPORT

fresh connect.®



SALADS

The weather in Spain is still causing detrimental challenges for many growers after heavy rainfall and flooding has damaged the majority of crops leaving availability short and prices sky high. On top of this we are facing a transitional period from Spanish to Dutch season. The most affected lines are below :

- Red Pepper
- Yellow Pepper
- Green Pepper
- Iceberg Lettuce
- Cos Lettuce
- Little Gem Lettuce
- Tomatoes (all varieties)

We have seen the first batch of French **Heritage Tomatoes**. These are vibrant in colour but on the inflated side as still early.

English Naked Cucumbers have been spotted for the first time which is a really positive sign that summer is on the horizon. Towards the middle of the month as Egyptian season slopes off, we should see the first of the **English Spring Onions** from our grower in Worcestershire.



Despite facing challenges with some whole head lettuces, we are still seeing lovely Italian varieties such as **Pink Raddichio, Castlefranco and Treviso Lettuce.**

All varieties of **Chillies** are slightly inflated as a result of Spanish season finishing a lot sooner than anticipated due to the weather and Dutch not ready yet.



FRUIT

It has been a terribly tricky time with **Melon's** (all varieties). We are seeing a slow improvement but nothing too rapid. This is due to the switch over from Costa Rican/Brazilian to Honduras Central American season. Pardon the pun but **Pineapple's** are 'in the same boat' as a result of ongoing issues with Vessel delays. **Banana** colouring is still tricky but we are hopeful this will improve as the month continues

The rain in Spain strikes again as we navigate flooding issues in orchards that produce **Lemons**. Mid-April will see new crops of South African which will help.

Sadly we are seeing the back end of **Blood Oranges** and they are near enough finished until next year. **English Apple Season** should be completely finished by the end of April and we will be working Southern Hemisphere by this point. **Nadorcotts** are slowly drawing an end and we will move over to Peruvian Clementines in the near future.

We have some **Berry** exciting news from our English Growers in Kent! We expect to see English **Strawberries** start as early as mid-April, sunshine dependant. .

English Blackberries & Raspberries

will follow suit during May. The quality and taste will undoubtedly be second to none as always.

VEGETABLES

It's the news we've all been waiting for since last June.... English Asparagus is almost here. Our grower in Hampshire has confirmed mid-April is when they are aiming for farm grown to start. In the meantime we have been working Wye Valley & New Forest varieties.

Another real highlight of this month are the UK Jersey Royal Mids and Wares. Availability and price is improving as the season progresses.

Yellow Courgettes are always a firm favourite and seem to be good value at the moment. The vibrant colour really adds that wow factor to the plate. Rainbow Chard is also a lovely bright and colourful option.



Most Root Vegetables (Beetroot Purple, Candy, Golden, Turnips, Parsnips and Swede) will be moving over to Spanish season in the coming weeks. We will cling onto English Carrots until the end of April and then move across to Scottish which can sometimes see deterioration quicker.

Monks Beard and Cimmi de Rappa are still expected to remain strong this month.

UK Purple Broccoli is stunning at the moment and another great seasonal delight. We have good availability on English Cauliflower and quality is stable. Spanish Broccoli is also good availability for now but with the multiple issues in Spain this has room to change quickly.

Let's discuss Potatoes (again)... we know they have been the topic of the year but we are working closely with our suppliers to keep up to date with any availability issues but as of yet we are not seeing anything to be alarmed about.

We have been notified by suppliers that there is indefinitely going to be a shortage with Tenderstem Broccoli. This is mostly as a result of rain in Spain and flight disruptions from Africa. We are keeping a close eye and working to avoid as minimal disruption with availability as possible.

Portuguese Hispi & Savoy Cabbages are still flourishing. Italian Black Cabbage is also a recommendation of ours. You can't go far wrong with English Green Kale and Spring Green which are both still wonderful.



Sweet Potatoes could be at risk of a shortage in the next month or so as a result of weather conditions damaging crops during the growing season in parts of America.

MUSHROOMS & FORAGED

Wild Garlic is in full swing and reasonably priced now availability is flowing nicely. The Patron Saint of England, St George's Day is at the end of the month and what better way to celebrate than with some St George's Mushroom. Enquire about availability as they are often in high demand and a very short season once started.

Other wild mushrooms available to choose from are Ceps, Girolles, Grey and Yellow Chanterelle. Pied de Mouton is also a great choice! Pre-order recommended so please check with the office first.

