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## Market REPORT

January 2024

### VEGETABLES & SALADS


We're kick starting the New Year with an update on **Cauliflower**. After a testing couple of months we are delighted to see improvements and increased volumes. Quality is also vastly better with English, French & Spanish varieties to choose from. **Broccoli** continues to be good availability and we seem to have overcome the problems from a few weeks ago. A produce warning still remains with **Potatoes**, stocks continue to be thin on the ground as we are facing ongoing challenges with quality due to the condition of crops.

**Asparagus** is a big topic of conversation as we anticipate issues with importation from Peru due to intense inspections of produce coming through the borders. This is down to an outbreak of a specific worm found among crops which is not harmful to humans but if discovered means the whole batch must be destroyed. We are keeping a close eye on this situation but predict a challenging period ahead.



One thing is for certain ...**January King Cabbage** is thriving this month! **Red Kale, Kale & Black Cabbage** are all still consistent. As expected now that Christmas is sadly over, **Brussels (tops, stalks & prep)** will start to wind down. **Tenderstem Broccoli** has much more promising availability than last month.

This time of year is always a little tricky for **Lettuces (iceberg, gem & cos)** as any dramatic switch in weather conditions can cause unanticipated issues. **Tomatoes** are looking good and seem to have steady supply coming in from Spain & Morocco. **Peppers, Aubergines & Cucumbers** remain stable.



We will also see some exciting lettuces this month, **Castelfranco, Treviso & Pink Raddichio** are all a little treat for the beginning of the year. **Monks Beard (a.k.a. Agretti)** is available now and coming into the market with the Italian deliveries.



## FRUIT

The real highlight of this month will be **Seville & Blood Oranges**. Please take advantage of Seville oranges whilst you can because the season is short and sweet with availability only lasting around 4 weeks. **Blood Oranges** will gradually become more colourful as the season progresses, at the moment they are on the paler side. Another highlight we should see this month is **Yorkshire Rhubarb**, full of colour and lovely to support British Produce wherever possible. Egyptian **Oranges** have started, this should see a healthy competition with Spanish variety and overall increase volumes. We should start to see Brazilian **Melons** wind down towards the end of the month but Honduras will start which will help void the gap during this transitional period.



**English Apples** are still going strong from the farm in Tonbridge. We should see a little less volumes of **Clementines & Satsumas** but **Nadorcotts** will start to come into play as we have seen the first sightings just before the new year. When in full swing these are by far the superior option but will be slightly inflated to begin with. **Berries (strawberries, raspberries, blackberries & blueberries)** as we know this time of year are very tricky, they are imported so the quality can be hit and miss.

There has been some pressure with container & port delays getting **Grapes** into the country, the 'grapest challenge' will be on both white & red grapes but we are optimistic that this should ease with increased availability from India and South Africa.



## MUSHROOMS & FORAGED

**Ceps** are lovely at the moment, **Yellow & Grey Chanterelle, Girolles, Mousseron, Pied du Mouton, Trompette & Truffles** are also around. Please contact the office for further information.

