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Market REPORT

August 2024

VEGETABLES

A frequent topic of conversation over the last few Market Reports, has been **Potatoes**. This has been by far one of the worst seasons Potato Growers have experienced in decades but we are starting to see light at the end of the tunnel...which is music to everyone's ears I'm sure! Weather conditions have improved significantly and farmers have worked through old stored crops meaning potatoes are back to Washed and not Brushed. We are working Spanish **Onions** in the interim period between old and new crop English **Onions** which should only be for a couple of weeks or so.

Tenderstem Broccoli is back at it's best and English season is fully flowing nicely. Kenyan variety is also there on back up for volume and to keep availability stable. English **Broccoli** is also a real highlight of the summer months and supply is excellent. English **Cauliflower** is superb value and fantastic size heads. The issues we were experiencing a month ago with Cauliflower are problems of the past and the quality is great now, we highly recommend ordering.



Let's focus on what other English Produce we have spotted around at the moment...We saw the start of **English Cabbages** such as **Savoy & Hispi** last month, but we are pleased to report that availability has increased and English Season is underway. **English Calvolo Nero (a.k.a. Black Cabbage) & English Kale** are also a great pick and we have even seen small sightings of **Verigated & Red Kale** too. **Carrots & Parsnips** both moved over to English towards the end of July and will remain strong throughout August. **English Courgettes** from Chichester and Worchestshire are lovely. **Leeks** are also in a much better position this month with the help of English season increasing volumes.

English Bobby Beans & Fine Beans started towards the end of last month and are expected to be around for a short while but availability can be slim so best to check before ordering. **English Marrows** have begun which are always a lovely addition and also some early **Summer Squashes** such as **Yellow Patty Pan**.



Although we shouldn't complain about finally having some warmer weather, we are mindful that if the heat becomes too intense it can cause issues for farmers so a little bit of rain is also welcomed to keep crops saturated.



FRUIT

Berries have by far been the highlight of the summer and our grower Hugh Lowe Farm in Maidstone, Kent never seem to disappoint. This year in particular the **English Strawberries** have tasted phenomenal. **English Raspberries & Blackberries** are also delicious and we anticipate another couple of months at least of supply. **English Blueberries** also taste lovely. We love to embrace the UK produce we are inundated with over the summer months and it doesn't stop at just Berries! We have seen some fantastic **English Plums** (Opal & Victoria) varieties so far, with more to follow. **English Cherries** are full of flavour and always a firm favourite, but be sure to grab them whilst they are around as the season is usually here and gone before we know it.



Stone Fruit season (**Apricots, Nectarines & Peaches**) are still going strong... just like the Spanish football team but let's not discuss that! We've seen small sightings of English **Blackcurrant & Redcurrant** and **English Gooseberries** are also still lovely. European **Grapes** have started, we have already seen Spanish and Italian should follow suit shortly. **Lemons & Limes** are both looking steady for the month ahead with no issues currently.

We will be making a slow transition over to **Nadorcotts** from **Clementines** soon. This will enhance the flavour and overall taste, as well as a visibly deeper orange skin. Whilst on the topic of citrus, Egyptian **Oranges** will slowly move over to western cape, South African this month. Towards the end of this month we will see the arrival of **Turkish Figs**. **Greengages** will start to ripen at the tail end of August and have a lovely juicy flesh. The season is usually short so make the most of them!

We could potentially run into some issues with **Melons** due to such intense heat over in Spain. The weather conditions have gone from one extreme to another in Spain, from such heavy rainfall early in the year to soaring temperatures, it makes it incredibly tricky for growers to manage crops. Luckily Brazilian Melon season is just around the corner. **Conference Pears** could be hit and miss over the course of August as we are waiting on Belgian crops to begin, which we anticipate being start of September. **Kiwi's** are being air freighted in from New Zealand at the moment. Longer food miles always make things trickier so we are eagerly awaiting the start of European crops in the coming weeks.



Apples (Granny Smith & Royal Gala varieties) are coming from Southern Hemisphere countries such as Chile and New Zealand. They are having issues with volumes and this is more challenging with transportation. On the plus side, we have made contact with our English Grower in Kent and they anticipate the season starting towards the end of August. Only a matter of weeks to go. **English Apple Season** is always fantastic and offers lovely varieties to choose from.

SALADS

All varieties of **Tomatoes** are very good availability at the moment due to increased volumes through Holland and Belgium. This is also the case for **Cucumbers** and all coloured **Peppers**. **Heritage Tomatoes** are also a fantastic choice for Summer Salads. We advise steering clear of **Red Chicory** at the moment and using **White Chicory** as an alternative as the price has been fluctuating a lot recently. **Lolo Rosso, Biondi & Oakleaf** are still lovely and coming from Kent which is again great in our mission to support British Growers!

MUSHROOM & FORAGED

As always please check availability of wild mushrooms with the office. The highlight this month is the delightful **Scottish Girolles**. Ask office for full product list.



ORDER ONLINE

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