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Market REPORT



July 2024

We can't quite believe we are over halfway through the year already! Amongst the turbulent ups and downs over the past few months we are starting to see some 'sunlight' at the end of the tunnel and also an abundance of UK Grown Produce.

VEGETABLES

It's no secret **Potatoes** have been a nightmare but stored crops are running out slowly but surely. Our potato grower Pierre Koffman have reported that they are in their final few weeks of old season storage crop. To help maintain the best quality possible on the potatoes they will be 'brushed' and **not washed** for a number of weeks. The soil is essential in providing protection to the potato and removing this is taking away the natural protective barrier. On the plus side we have seen much more choice on the UK Grown Vegetable front. Let's start with English **Carrots**, the very first began towards the end of June from our grower in Norfolk. We have also seen some stunning **English Heritage Bunched Carrots** which add a lovely variety of colour.

English **Courgettes** have started from Barfoot's of Botley in Chichester, they are fantastic quality. We saw a blip in Dutch **Yellow Courgettes** but they are slowly coming down in price, we are hopeful this remains the case. A real highlight of the summer months are English **Runner Beans, Broad Beans & Fresh Peas**. These are perfect for incorporating into your menu's. After an uncertain few weeks with **Cauliflower** on volumes, quality and price, we are now pleased to have seen vast improvements on English Cauliflower availability. Although it is great to see **English Broccoli** has started, quantity is still quite low and there is no Spanish supply to back it up. **English Kale, Savoy, Hispi & Black Cabbage (Cavolo Nero)** are all early season but will flourish as the month progresses and definitely worth ordering!



UK Purple Broccoli has just started but demand is always high and volumes still very low as it's the beginning of the season. We hope this will improve later into July. On the other hand, **Tenderstem** still remains short as there are ongoing issues in Kenya and Spain. English season is delayed due to weather conditions in the early stages of growing season.

New Dutch season **Leeks** are not ready yet and some Spanish regions are having problems with weather conditions. Dutch **Red & White Cabbage** are moving over to new season and we have seen a spike in prices as a result. **Corn on the Cob Husks** are always lovely this time of year, but we have only seen small amounts of Spanish & Moroccan for now. English will hopefully start further into July. English **Asparagus** season was sweet but oh so short! We have now moved back over to Peruvian variety which generally sees a jump back up in price.

FRUIT

The quality of our **English Strawberries, Raspberries & Blackberries** from Hugh Lowe Farm are always unmatched. They are minimal distance from our warehouse and fantastic for sustainability and low food miles. English **Blueberries** are also delicious and coming from Kent. **English Gooseberries** from Wye Valley are simply stunning. **English Cherries** are also coming from Kent and taste phenomenal. Take advantage of them over the next couple of months. If we are lucky we should see **English Plums** by the end of the month. Spanish Stone fruit is still superb at the moment, **Peaches, Nectarines & Apricots** are a lovely addition. If you fancy something a little different, we recommend **Flat Peaches** (a.k.a. Donut Peaches). **Flat Nectarines** are still yet to make an appearance.

Let's talk about Spanish **Melon's**great availability & quality at the moment and also taste fantastic! (Honeydew, Galia, Ogen & Watermelon). We have had a rocky patch with Easy Peelers. **Satsumas**, the skin was much paler in colour and tasted on the sour side but we are pleased to report that Southern Hemisphere **Clementine's** have started, a lovely vibrant orange colour on the skin and juicy flesh inside means they are definitely worth ordering again and much better quality.



South African **Lemons** are in full swing and good availability. **Limes** are also a reliable product and good value. We haven't got long left on Egyptian **Oranges**, we will move over to Spanish season when these end. We are starting to see Italian varieties of **Grapes** coming through, usually these are packed full of flavour and a 'grape' size.

SALADS

All English **Salads** are flowing nicely at the moment. There was a slight blip with **Iceberg** where they became very short due to poor growing conditions caused by cold, wet weather. The quality is good but the size is inconsistent and availability hit and miss. We are hoping this issue will be resolved quickly. Other than that, **Cos & Gem** Lettuce are both okay. **Baby Mix Leaf, Rocket, & Baby Spinach** availability is all good. We have seen some lovely **Lollo Rosso, Biondi & Oakleaf** from Kent, we certainly recommend. **Tomatoes, Cucumber & Peppers** are all stable and good availability. English & French **Heritage Tomatoes** are stunning, vibrant in colours and fantastic for summer salads. English **Spring Onions** from Worcestershire & English **Celery** from Cambridge have begun. We love supporting British Growers and it's delightful to see so many UK (particularly English) grown produce now the weather has started to perk up a little.

MUSHROOM & FORAGED

We have seen a good selection of Wild Mushrooms from our Mushroom supplier. Girolles, Mouserrons, Pied Bleu and Mini Girolles all around but as always please contact the office to pre-order and double check availability.

