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Market

REPORT



September 2024

VEGETABLES

We have seen lovely varieties of **Mixed Squashes & Pumpkins** and expect to see this continue as we enter into Autumn. **English Onion, Harlequin, Gem, Spaghetti & Casperita Squash**, as well as **English Crown Prince** and **Pattison Squash** are some of the delights we have seen already. If you want the perfect mix of all squashes why not order a box of **Mixed Squash**, very seasonal!

We are finally onto new crop **Potato**, which we are pleased to announce the quality, availability and value are the best they've been this year so far. Unfortunately **Jersey Royal Mids & Wares** have now finished until next year. It's been a good year for them in amongst the difficult circumstances with Potatoes.



English Carrots & Parsnips are doing very well and a lovely reliable root vegetable option. Why not try **Rainbow Carrots** if you'd like a splash of Autumnal colour! We are now new season **Swede & Turnips** which will also give a wider option with root veg. Following on from this we have some lovely English produce to choose from on the Vegetable front. **Tenderstem Broccoli, Broccoli & Cauliflower** are great choices and good size heads. **English Broad Beans, Fresh Peas and Runner Beans** will now draw to an end for this year. **Corn on the Cob husks** will follow suit as we head towards the end of September.

On the Brassica front we have some lovely **English Savoy & Hispi Cabbages** that will see us through the winter months. **English Kale, Black Cabbage (calvolo nero)** and **Red Kale** are nice additions and if you want to add a pop of colour English Rainbow Chard is now available and always a firm favourite.

We mentioned last month early sightings of **English Marrow**, these are now bang in season and we recommend adding to orders as they will be around for hopefully the next couple of months. We can't quite believe that at the end of August we have seen the first sightings of **Brussel Sprouts**. If this isn't a sign that Christmas is around the corner we don't know what is!!

A couple of items to look forward to this month are **Piccolo Parsnips** which we anticipate starting in the first week of September, whilst **Mixed Chantenay Carrots** have been slightly delayed in starting so we should see them by the last week in September. **Chervil & Parsley Root** have already begun. Belgian & Dutch **Leeks** have also started which enhances availability other than just English moving forward.

FRUIT

We had a fantastic season with English **Cherries** but sadly as expected they have now finished. In terms of fresh cherries the only real option is American/Canadian now but be warned prices are not for the faint hearted and availability is not as reliable. Spanish stone Fruit season is drawing to an end earlier than expected due to hot Spanish weather. (**Peaches, Nectarines, Apricots**) will still be available for the next few weeks but volumes will be down. We should then see the start of South African season towards the end of September. **Damsons** have been and gone already, the season was certainly short but sweet. **English Plums** are still around but will slope off throughout the course of the month. We have seen minimal amounts of **English Greengages** but have more availability of Spanish & French varieties.

We look forward to seeing **Cobnuts** this month on the market, as well as hopefully some **Wet Walnuts**. Snap them up whilst they're around as usually availability is only for a few weeks. A real highlight this month is going to be **Turkish Figs** - great value, great flavour, great availability! We've seen new season Belgian **Conference Pears** which have been eagerly awaited. **English Conference Pears** are also due to start soon.

We are elated that finally **English Apple** season is here, coming from our grower in Tonbridge, Kent. Bramley Apples have already started which are lovely and a great size. Dessert Apple wise we have Red Robjin, Early Windsor and in the coming weeks we should start to see Royal Gala & Braeburn flourishing. With regards to Granny Smith Apples we are now back over to French & Serbian varieties. Cox & Russett Apples will hopefully make an appearance.



A 'Berry' serious topic of conversation is **English Strawberries, Raspberries & Blackberries** from Hugh Lowe Farm in Kent. This is the last full month that we expect to have availability of English Berries before they move over to European varieties such as Spanish, Portuguese and Peruvian. We will keep you posted on the exact end date but by October the farm has said they anticipate the season to be finished sadly.

In terms of Citrus, **Oranges** (all sizes) are now fully over to Southern Hemisphere varieties such as South African, Argentinian and New Zealand. We foresee a slight issue on the horizon with regards to **Limes**, This is due to vessel delays, high prices on the continent and lower volumes being sent overall. We have fully transitioned over to **Nadorcotts** which are great quality, juicy and full of flavour.

Spanish **Melon** season is near enough finished and we should see a smooth transition over to Brazilian season at the start of the month. Last year we saw early sightings of **Blood Oranges** in September so let's wait and see if we're lucky enough this year too!

SALADS

We should still have a solid month of Dutch/Belgian **Aubergines, Peppers & Tomatoes** with back up options of Polish. **Cucumber** are a bit limited at the moment due to minimal harvest and the plants not producing enough cucumber itself. **Italian Rocket (wooden rocket)** has problems due to high temperatures in Italy and by the time it's travelled to the UK quality is heavily impacted. **English Lettuces & Baby Leaf** are still going strong for another month.

MUSHROOM & FORAGED

We have seen some lovely **Scottish Girolles** and waiting on **Scottish Chanterelles** to start. Contact the office for any further availability on Wild Mushrooms & Foraged this month.

