

MARKET REPORT

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March 2025

FRUIT



This time of year can be quite tricky for fruits with weather conditions from winter months having a knock on affect and many seasonal changes. We hope to see positive times ahead as we look forward to spring, more sunlight and warmer weather.

Nadorcotts from Morocco are still booming and packed full of flavour. Italian **Blood Oranges** are a really lovely addition with their deep rich red colour flesh. We anticipate these sloping off towards April so get them whilst you can.

Egyptian Oranges of all sizes are still plentiful and full of flavour.

English Apples have taken a heavy blow this season as a result of cold snaps causing them to come to an end a lot earlier than expected. We will work with our suppliers to bridge the gap for the next month until new season kicks in.

Melons (all varieties) are facing a seasonal switch from Brazilian to Central American alongside Vessel delays caused by poor weather overseas. **Pineapples** could be impacted as well as **Bananas**.

We are still eagerly awaiting the start of **English Berry Season**, however, winter crop berries have held down the fort but at a compromise of a costly price due to limited availability as coming from further afield.

Pancake Day is just around the corner so **Lemon's** are inevitably going to be in high demand. Poor weather from Spain on top of this could cause some issues but nothing to severe for now. Turkish season of **Pomegranates** is finishing and there will be a gap before Peruvian/Indian starts. Prices will start inflated until the season fully kicks in and quality will be one to watch. **Rhubarb** is still going strong and seasonal.

MUSHROOMS & FORAGED

March is the month for **Wild Garlic**...finally! It feels like we've been waiting an eternity but bare in mind it's still early.

Girolles, Pied du Mouton, Chanterelle, Trompette, Ceps and Morels are around this month but pre-order required and please speak to the office for pricing and full list of Mushroom availability.

We are in the midst of a National Egg Shortage due to Avian Bird Flu so prices are volatile for now..



VEGETABLES

English Cauliflowers are plentiful at the moment, a lot better in comparison to last month also the size of the heads are much better.

Spanish **Broccoli** has good availability at the moment and talks of small hikes don't seem to have transpired which is good news. **Tenderstem** is also a great choice.

Portugese **Savoy and Hispi Cabbage** quality is superb at the moment compared to the very small amounts of English remaining. Italian **Black Cabbage** (Cavolo Nero) and **Rainbow Chard** are coming in nicely. Unfortunately **January King Cabbage** is done until next season. **Jerusalem Artichokes** are a great addition to spring menu's.



Egyptian **Sweet Potatoes** have drawn to an end we will have crops coming from Spain & USA but availability may be slimmer.

Butternut Squash is moving over from Northern to Southern Hemisphere.

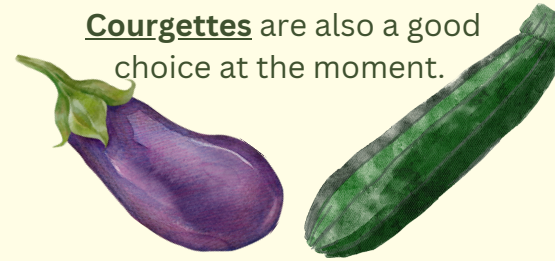
Potatoes are stable for now but from April there is likely to be availability problems. In particular it is **Salad Potatoes, Red and Larger size potatoes** which we could see a shortfall. Suppliers are keeping us informed and we are prepared for contingency plans.

Jersey Royal Mids & Wares will start closer to April time, availability will gradually improve as the season progresses. **English Asparagus** is available but pricey, farm grown will start mid-April but Mexican is also doing a nice job of filling the void.

Carrots, Parsnips, Swede, Turnips and Celeriac are all fantastic root vegetable choices. **Coloured Carrots, Rainbow, White, Purple, Sand** are amazing and vibrant.

We have seen the first sightings of Dutch **Aubergines** which means new season is imminent.

Courgettes are also a good choice at the moment.



We have seen shortages on **Red and White Cabbage**, impacting cost so where possible if alternative Cabbages can be used it is recommended. On a positive note, **Monks Beard** and **Cimmi de Rappa** are a seasonal delight.

Kalettes, Verigated Kale and Red Kale will go on until the middle of March if you are looking for something a little less ordinary.

SALADS

Peppers have had a challenging time and it's not over just yet. 'Thrips Virus' (small, tubular-shaped flies) has had a huge

impact on all coloured **Peppers** in Spain/Morocco. The quality of the product has been compromised with marking on the outer skin as the main result. As expected cost has gone through the roof and availability severely lacking. **Jalapeno's** are in a similar position due to poor weather conditions they have gone short.

Due to continued poor weather, there has been a turn of events with **Tomatoes**. Quality and lack of colour is visible on most varieties.

We are optimistic that warmer weather will help ease this situation as quickly as possible **Cucumbers** seem to be stable and we have seen the first of the Dutch season which is great news.

Castlefranco, Pink Raddichio and Treviso are still a strong option on the Italian salad front. **Lolo Rosso** seems to have gone quite limited unexpectedly due to poor weather but **Biondi** and **Oakleaf** are yet to see any impacts..

