

Crop Report

Wednesday 5th November to Wednesday 12th November

Get the insight you need to plan more effectively and manage your menus with our latest report from the field, brought to you by our expert produce team.

Berries



November is traditionally a difficult time of the year for producers, as the end of the British season usually comes before the main winter production from Morocco is available.

Strawberries are currently being sourced from Holland, which is suffering from lower yields and putting additional pressure on available supply. The supply issues are likely to last for at least two to three weeks, until the Moroccan harvest commences. In the meantime, we are investigating potential options to support supply.

Raspberries are also in short supply, as British produce has now finished and we are entirely reliant on produce imported from Morocco.

British blackberries are coming to an end for the season, with the transition to imported product expected to be completed by next week.

Blueberry availability is good as these are sourced from Peru, where the new season has been underway for a few weeks.

Broccoli



It has been a difficult end to the UK season, with pests causing problems for growers. However, we are now closing in on the end of the season, with the first Spanish produce arriving this week. This will help end the ongoing problems that have been affecting broccoli production.

Lemons



We are beginning the transition to Spanish lemons this week, bringing a very difficult Southern Hemisphere season to an end. While the season has been challenging, we have worked closely with suppliers and managed limited availability well.

The Spanish season should see an improvement in quality and availability, and, as a result, the size concession which is currently in place for large lemons is scheduled to be removed this week.

There is a note of caution, as the end of the Spanish season is expected to be difficult due to lower yields and we will be working with suppliers to minimise the impact on customers.

Cabbage



Maintaining weight is an ongoing challenge for growers and concessions remain in place to support availability of both red and white cabbage. There are also some ongoing quality issues with oedema impacting the crop.

Tomatoes



While the winter tomato season has been slightly slower to get into gear, there are no major availability concerns. What we are seeing, however, is an increase in some fruit which is larger than expected.

Easy Peelers



As we transition between the Southern and Northern Hemispheres, we have introduced a size concession, which will allow us to maximise the best of the crop, rather than switching straight to early season Spanish varieties. This means that we can get the most out of the better eating quality of South African varieties before the season ends.

Eggs



The UK is experiencing a higher level of Avian Influenza (AI) than has been seen in the past couple of years. The increase in cases has caused the UK Government to introduce Housing Orders across large parts of the country, which means that hens are kept inside to protect them from AI.

An Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) is in place across the UK, which means that enhanced biosecurity measures are now in force. We source eggs from multiple locations, reducing the risk of localised outbreaks and we will continue to work with suppliers to minimise the potential impact.