

# Crop Report

Wednesday 20th August to Wednesday 27th August

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.

## Dry weather impact on pests

Hot and dry conditions are ideal for pests, such as aphids and mites. This is particularly difficult when there is an extended period without rain, which physically removes the insect from the plant as well as leading to drought-stressed plants, which are a more suitable host.

While we work with suppliers to try to minimise insects, weather conditions make it impossible to completely eliminate them.

### Lemons



Availability of lemons from South Africa is beginning to fall as the impact of flooding across the country in May and June is felt on the end of season crop.

We are expecting challenges to increase in the coming weeks, culminating in an early finish to the season, potentially around three weeks earlier than expected.

With the exception of large lemons, where we already have a concession in place to allow a slightly smaller size, there are no immediate supply issues. However, the transition period as we move to Spain is expected to be very challenging.

Growers are also reporting strong concerns over the Spanish harvest, which is showing signs of being a particularly difficult season.

### Cauliflower



The market-wide shortages of cauliflower are continuing with low stocks not only in the UK, but also across Europe.

The ongoing hot weather is impacting the harvest for longer than expected. The crop urgently requires some rain to get the harvest back to normal. Even then, it will take a further week or two before we see any significant improvement in market availability.

There is currently a concession in place for pests, as the dry weather means it is more difficult to wash them away completely. Further concessions are being considered to help maximise availability over this very difficult period.

### Tenderstem® Broccoli



Quality and availability of Tenderstem® broccoli continues to improve, following the heatwave in July. However, with the recent hot temperatures, and with more expected this week, we are monitoring the situation very closely.

There are still some quality issues, but we are working with suppliers to try to grade these out. We currently have four suppliers for Tenderstem® broccoli, which is helping us to manage a difficult period and minimise the impact on customers.

### Broccoli



There are widespread shortages of broccoli caused by the hot weather. The challenges have been [widely reported in the media](#) and are being seen across retail and foodservice, with product shortages, some quality issues and difficulties with sizing all impacting the harvest.

There are concerns about the weight of the product, with pre-packed product particularly badly affected. While loose broccoli is also challenging, it has slightly better availability as the weight requirement is not as strict.

The market is extremely difficult and expected to remain so in the short-term.

### Cucumbers



There are some size issues with cucumbers following very high temperatures in Spain. This has led to shortages of some of the largest-sized produce, along with some slight discolouring on a small number of cucumbers.

In order to maximise availability in the short-term, there is a size concession in place. However, because cucumbers are such a fast-growing crop, we expect the situation to be resolved by the end of the week, provided there are no further weather concerns.

### Nectarines and Peaches



The season will end earlier than usual due to extremely hot weather in Spain. We expect the remaining stock to be used within the next week or so, bringing these popular seasonal products to an end for the year.