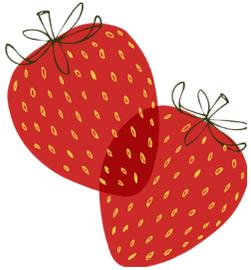


THE GRAPE VINE



7th

January



Strawberries **ALERT** ⚠️

We're seeing heavy bruising, wet bruising and white shoulders on Strawberries from Holland, Egypt and Morocco due to heavy rain and cool weather at source. The supply of Strawberries will not be affected and we are carrying out additional quality checks in all depots at point of delivery and despatch.

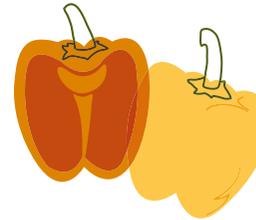
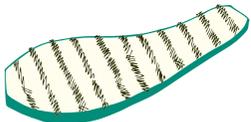
Tomatoes **ALERT** ⚠️

We are seeing some issues with Standard round, Vine, Beef and Plum tomatoes from Spain and Morocco. The humidity and cold weather has caused development of some mould (Alternaria) on the tomatoes that is not developing until days after being picked. This makes it very difficult for the suppliers to detect the issue during packing. The weather at source has improved over the past week which should steadily improve the crops. Supply is not affected and we're carrying out additional checks and monitoring the produce coming into our depots and at despatch.



Courgette

Spanish and Moroccan Courgette quality is starting to improve following a challenging few months. We are now starting to see production slowly increasing on a weekly basis with volume from Mainland Spain and also more from Morocco as well. The quality is good from both sources.



Peppers **ALERT** ⚠️

We are still seeing issues with Spanish Peppers due to recent weather conditions. The volumes are still a little low for all main colours, particularly green and yellow peppers. The overall quality is reasonable, however the shelf life may be impacted due to thinner walls and may be more likely to develop some defects after arrival in depot. We are monitoring the peppers as they develop, and we are working hard with the suppliers to ensure the availability is maintained. Supply is not affected at present but we are looking into potential concessions for mixed pepper combination.



Blueberries

Blueberries from Peru and Chile are of great quality, we're seeing good size, shape and taste.



Prep Potatoes **ALERT** ⚠️

Unfortunately the quality issues of British peeled and prep potatoes are continuing. High levels of internal defects are still being seen in addition to smaller than normal potatoes, approx. 70% -45mm, pinking and greening potatoes on Intake. We are working with the suppliers to increase the amount of checks carried out on the potato, at each stage of the process, from the delivery of the whole unpeeled potatoes through the peeling process to the despatch from our depots.



Want to know more? Check out our weekly crop update at freshdirect.co.uk/crop-report

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