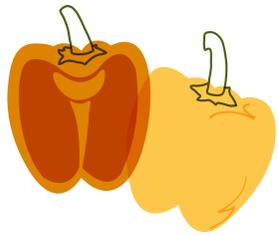


# THE GRAPE VINE



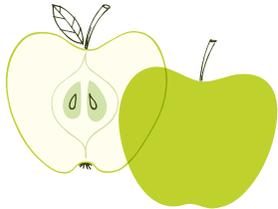
24<sup>th</sup>

February



## Peppers **ALERT** ⚠️

Availability of Spanish peppers remains tight and the overall quality has deteriorated further. The colder conditions slow down the natural maturity process of the peppers, resulting in “streaking” and slight mixed colouration on the odd individual pepper. We are also seeing some micro-cracking on the skin. Our growers are being extremely vigilant with their checks when packing. We anticipate the pepper situation will become more difficult in coming weeks.



## Bramley Apple **ALERT** ⚠️

Due to a poor apple season, the supply of Bramley apples is going to be exhausted by the beginning of March, with supply not resuming again until September. The UK is the only country growing Bramley apples so no foreign supply is available. We will be opening up the specification to include Granny Smith, which is a sweeter apple so less sugar will be required for cooking.



## Oranges

Nadarcotts oranges from Morocco are receiving great feedback on quality and great flavour. The Spanish volume is now beginning to improve following the poor weather in Valencia and southern Mainland a couple of weeks ago.



## Cucumber **ALERT** ⚠️

As we approach the end of the season, the quality of the older cucumber crop is deteriorating quickly and impacting shelf life. We are checking for softness although slightly misshapen pieces may be seen until we switch to the new Spanish crop next month. Dutch supply is slowly increasing but showing signs of immaturity and pale colouration.



## Cabbage **ALERT** ⚠️

We're seeing supply and quality issues on Spain and UK cabbage due increased rainfall and lower temperatures at source. Concessions are in place for smaller headweight and we are also carrying out additional QC checks.



## Radicchio

Italian supply of Radicchio is in full swing, with good reports on quality and availability.



**Want to know more?** Check out our weekly crop update at [freshdirect.co.uk/crop-report](https://freshdirect.co.uk/crop-report)