

THE GRAPE VINE



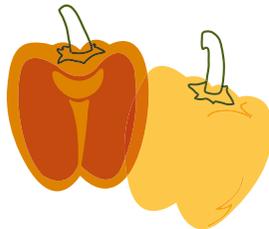
16th

March



Savoy Cabbage **ALERT** ⚠️

We're seeing some weather related quality issues on Savoy Cabbage, including black spotting, leaf damage and an increased risk of insects presence. We believe that there is a chance that the UK season will finish early this year due to the rain affecting the remaining crops left in the ground. Our suppliers are monitoring the situation closely.



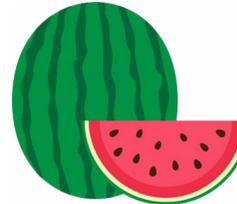
Peppers **ALERT** ⚠️

The Spanish crop is now coming to the end of season and as a result the quality on some of the crops is rapidly deteriorating. We're seeing green tinges to the colouring and shelf life is being reduced due to isolated breakdowns. We are carrying out additional quality checks in our depots before despatch.



Blackberries

We have recently seen some weather related quality challenges with Mexican and Guatemalan blackberries. These have now cleared up and the fruit is of good quality and availability. We're still seeing some red cells, but these are within specification.



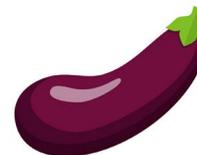
Watermelon **ALERT** ⚠️

There are some quality challenges with watermelons from Brazil and Costa Rica. The Brazilian crop is showing signs of rots and stem moulds. Some of the Costa Rican crop has flesh maturity as some farms are coming to the final 2 weeks of harvest. We're reselecting stock where necessary.



Round tomatoes **ALERT** ⚠️

Spanish and Moroccan round tomato crops are coming to the end of season. Although some of the fruit still has ok visual appearance we are finding the shelf life is short. After a few days the fruit can become softer in condition and some occasional black spots become evident. The new Spanish season will start at the end of next month. Canary Island production is now increasing, and the quality is very good, but our growers are harvesting earlier to meet demand and the crop is lighter in colour, but this will not affect eating quality.



Aubergine

Spanish aubergine quality, flavour and availability remains good. There is good availability on sizes mainly from 225/300grams to 300/400grams.



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