

# Crop Report

## 26<sup>th</sup> July - 6<sup>th</sup> August

Summer in the UK got off to a slow start and this is affecting some of the Great British seasonal crops we know and love. Ongoing challenges including labour shortages and the easing of lockdown restrictions continue to challenge our supply chain of both import and domestic produce. We continue to mitigate these issues and communicate with our customers.

### Top Fruit **Red Delicious Apples**



There is reduced availability on red delicious apples, this is ongoing as growers are seeing the desire for different style apples in the market. We are working with our grower and as part of our red seasonal boxes, the red delicious are being substituted with higher quality apples such as Fuji and Cripps pink!  
**Origin:** Brazil, Serbia

### Exotic Fruit & Vegetables **Asparagus**



We are currently importing asparagus from Peru, where we have seen a challenge with the weather affecting quality and covid related flight restrictions for all product coming out of South America. We are reviewing this on a regular basis to maintain supply  
**Origin:** Peru

### Salad Leaves **Wild Rocket & Baby Spinach, Lambs Lettuce**



We are seeing limited supply from Italy due to the very high temperatures, this is further exacerbated by the UK supply being affected by hot and then wet weather; leading to soft leaves. We are working with our growers to manage quality and availability.  
**Origin:** Italy & UK

### Brassica **Broccoli**



There is a shortage of British broccoli, which is likely to last 2 weeks, this is due to the cold dry Spring causing delays in the production of UK crop. We are importing from Spain temporarily to maintain availability.  
**Origin:** UK, Spain

### Salads **Heritage Tomatoes**



Our heritage tomatoes grown by Westlands are now in season, these are delicious and flavoursome in an array of fantastic colours and sizes!  
**Origin:** UK

### Salads **Celery**



Our summer crop is well underway from both Spain and the UK, showing good quality product and availability  
**Origin:** Spain & UK

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Salads  
**Peppers**



Whilst pepper availability remains strong, we have some concerns with tingeing on the main colours e.g. yellow and orange peppers may show a tinge of green. This is due to the recent poor natural light, which helps the colour to develop. On the plus side the Spanish summer production is developing well but availability is currently still limited. We maintain regular updates with the growers.

**Origin:** Spain, The Netherlands, UK

Root Vegetables  
**Carrots**



The UK carrot season is now in full availability with a smooth transition and great quality crop  
**Origin:** UK

Fruit  
**Strawberries**



We are in full UK strawberry season now with product being sourced from Kent and Staffordshire. There has been some quality concerns caused by the recent wet weather leading to humidity in the tunnels. This leads the berries to be slightly softer than anticipated but they are still within specification

**Origin:** UK

Other News  
**Heatwave**



The recent heatwave and amber warning in the South and Midlands is causing a challenge not only on the impact of British crop but also ensuring that product is delivered to our warehouse at the correct temperature

We continue to check all temperatures on delivery to ensure that they are correct and in spec.

Flood warnings have been issued for this weekend in large parts of the UK, which is something we will monitor with our suppliers.

Other News  
**Transport**



Whilst we have communicated the ongoing challenges with transport and driver shortages, this does remain an ongoing challenge across the industry. The lack of drivers and labour is now further exacerbated by the new buzzword 'pingdemic,' we have had two instances of suppliers affected this week. This is difficult to plan for due to the nature of the situation. However we are doing everything we can to mitigate any problems which should arise, investing in recruitment events, keeping in regular communication with our suppliers and working together to minimise risk to our supply/ reduce impact to the customer.



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Salads  
**Tomatoes** (Cherry / Baby Plum / On Vine)



Volume has reduced significantly and we are now sourcing further inland, the quality of the crops we have seen so far is good. However, please note with the current intense heat in Spain there may be some quality issues going forward affecting baby plum and cherry tomatoes, we are working with the growers and packers to minimise this.

**Origin:** Spain, Morocco, Holland

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