

Notes from the Buying Desk

OVERVIEW GLOBAL AVOCADO SHORTAGES

The lack of avocados on the European market is a consequence of the situation in the United States. Due to the favourable prices, a lot of the exports from Peru and Mexico are going to the US instead of to Europe. Currently, Peru, Mexico and South Africa are the countries in production. Colombia is also producing, but it has smaller volumes which are primarily intended for the domestic market and Europe. We hope prices will ease into September as harvest volumes increase and ease pressure in the markets globally.

Fruit

UK Red Robin apples in stock – excellent quality red apple which has good shelf life
Rhubarb – not great quality but holding in stock as there is demand
UK Plums – good quality Victoria and Marjorie Seedlings in stock
Figs – new season Turkish in stock, good value and outside quality
Blackberry – as is usual when the hedge rows are full of blackberries the cultivated fruit becomes expensive.
English Cherry – now finished, some Canadian available but in excess of £50 per box
Finger Limes – in stock
Pears – back onto Conference now
Cornish Melons – in very limited supply, first come first serve, amazing taste
Pomegranate – Indian exports increasing and prices have eased
Grape – now new season Spanish

Vegetable

Cauliflower and Calabrese – harvest volume increase nationally, prices are easing back
Plenty of Cornish cabbages, Cornish Kale, Cornish Chard, leeks, swede and Cornish runner beans to fill the plates
Corn on the Cob – very good value and quality corn in stock
Local courgette – numbers are low because of lower temperatures and less day light
Calabrese – price is reducing as local supply is plentiful
Cauliflower – supply increasing, price reducing
SQUASH – mixed and separate varieties now in stock
Red Onion – trialling prepacked 1kg nets to reduce picking time & plastic bag usage

Salad

Candy and Golden Beet – new season about to start
Corn on the Cob – good value and great quality
Radish – UK bunched red and breakfast in stock
Tomato – supply of round salad tomato is intermittent, price up down.
Lettuce – local lollo and oakleaf is now finished, UK will continue into September

We Recommend...

Canara Farm mixed coloured beans, courgette flowers and mixed cherry tomatoes - supply slowing will end soon
 Local Gourmet Lizard Baby Leaves from Canara Farm
 Local Seasonal Cabbage – Savoy, Pointed, Spring Green
 Courgette – green/yellow and round STA
 Runner Beans
 Strawberries
 Mixed Edible Flowers
 Good Earth veg – available on request
 Calabrese – subject to avail currently
 Cauli – subject to avail currently
 Summer Foraged lines available on request
 Rhubarb
 Salad Mids, Washed Potato, Sagita, Wilja, Cornish New
 Duchy Fries – new season and prices have eased which is great news for all
 Devon Loose Tenderstem & Calabrese
 Devon Red Cabbage
 Devon Savoy & Hispi
 Devon Kale and Cavelo Nero
 Devon Forest Fungi Mushrooms,
 Devon Strawberries & Courgette
 Devon Beets & Rainbow Chard

Good Value...

Canara Mixed colour beans and tomatoes – coming to an end soon
 Seasonal berries – local available now weather permitting
 Seasonal Stone fruit – especially peach and nectarines
 Apples – Gloster imported for value
 Melons – some good value fruit around – ask for best deals – galia and cantelooop
 Small lemons rather than the large – the large are however XXL and great quality
 Un-ripened Mango good value
 Seasonal Beets including Candy and Golden
 Tri-colour Peppers for value
 Local Courgette
 Mixed Sprouting Beans
 Cornish Wild Mush mix and Devon Forest
 Fungi mixed mushrooms
 Fresh Corn on the cob
 New season carrots and parsnips – value nets coming back in
 Rainbow chard
 Local Sagitta Potatoes – will chip
 Duchy Fries – prices easing now with new season harvest
 Local Cabbages - Spring Green cabbage & Savoy

Use with Care...

Cauliflower and Calabrese – have been very short nationally – good news prices now easing
Tenderstem – being used as alternative to lines above and extra demand sent prices up
Avocado – global shortage & massive demand driving wholesale prices up – portion control
Tomatoes – prices up and down impacted by weather & demand is very high – large vine still better value than the salad round toms – we recommend the large vine.
Peppers – volatile pricing – up and down – check for best value – generally tri-colour
Melons – prices up on Brazilian imports – watermelon still good value
Shallots – prices easing now
Pomegranate – prices have eased and supply has increased
Mango RTU – use cheaper un-ripened fruit for value – needs a few days in kitchen to ripen
Red Chicory – use yellow/white for better value although red are cheaper than they can be
Easy Peel Clems – prices are up – Mineola and small oranges are possible alternative
Grapefruit & Pineapple – prices are up a little – portion control
Clems - Citrus – easy peel – Mineola better value than clems – larger fruit though
Bakers – new season starting to come in and prices will ease – use smaller 50's/60's for value

Latest updates 08/09/2019 - Subject to availability