



Were back, Our first market report since March this year?

Hope you are all well and staying safe.

October is normally the month of Halloween but with the current situation around gatherings of six we don't see it being the same this year leaving growers with a lot of pumpkins. October will also signal the start of change over in seasons, Although technically most change over occur at the end of the month you will start to see offers from different origins.

With all that has happened this year we would like to thank all our customers, suppliers, and most importantly staff for all the support throughout this pandemic. Although not out of the woods yet as an industry we remain positive as a business moving forward.

We are still seeing issues with airfreight due to lack of commercial flights on exotic produce. Road Freight got easier for a while providing back haul opportunities for European haulage companies but has now slowed down again. A few people have asked me what the impact is on road freight so to explain. All haulage companies will always try and pick up a return load. So for example a lorry delivering peaches to the UK from Spain will then load up with goods to go back to Spain splitting on cost across the whole trip between the two companies, If however they can't collect anything to go back to Spain this cost us around fourteen hundred Euros more per truck.

## Food Service

UK heritage Golden and Candy beetroot in full swing and excellent value.

UK Purple sprouting broccoli will also prove to be popular throughout the month.

UK Brussel sprouts and Sprout tops will be available throughout October.

Some beautiful UK mixed Chantenay carrots available.

Very nice UK Cavolo Nero Cabbage.

UK Rainbow chard.

Very much the time of year for UK grown mixed squashes, Crown prince, Spaghetti, Onion, Acorn, Giant patty pan, and Kaboch.

Foraged produce good for October Wild sea purslane, Sea beet, Sea arrow grass, Douglas fir, Sea aster,

Cime di rapa from Italy will be very good quality,

Trevise and Tardivo will also be very popular.

Herbs no issue with UK crops Mint, Parsley, Coriander. Issues imported lines from Africa and Israel Basil, Chives, Tarragon and Chervil due to flight availability and effect on shelf life.

Mushrooms conventional Button, Cup, Paris, Flat, Portobello no issues expected as good product arriving daily. Wild Mushrooms you might want to look at Chanterelle, Pied du mouton.

# Fruit

**UK Bramley** apples good supply coming through.

**European Braeburn Apples, Golden delicious, and Red chief** very slow starting not much on fruit in the country Still South African and New Zealand fruit about but is right at the end of season.

**Granny Smith** apples not so much of an issues with more availability this season.

**Royal Gala** apples plentiful from France, Italy, Spain although PSI are lower than they should be this time of year due to the warm weather in Europe at start of season.

**Italian kiwifruit** arriving daily with slightly low sugars but good quality.

Grapefruit very difficult, very short in availability on Ruby with South African just finished and Mexican and fruit from Israel very slow arriving to Europe, This will remain the case until Spanish fruit is available.

**Marsh** not as popular in demand but proving as difficult in finding supply.

**Easy peeler. Nadorcot's** South African and Peruvian fruit all but finished now. Good **Satsumas** have started, BRIX levels not as high as we would like but quality is very good.

**Italian Plums** and Portuguese's **Angelino** available throughout October.

**Pears**, South African now finishing' **Williams pears** from Italy this season have proved a disaster.

We have moved over to **Italian packham's** variety as quality is better.

**Lemons**, Spanish season not ready yet as fruit is still to green so we will stay with South African and Chilean until the end of month.

**Oranges** very short, South African season is all but finished on large fruit and smaller fruit has about two weeks left, Spanish fruit will not be ready until around first week of November leaving Europe very short on fruit.

**Melons Yellow** Spanish and Sicilian now slowly finishing. Brazilian just started. Excellent sizeable fruits but obviously low sugars to start with.

**Melons** water some Spanish slowly finishing now Brazilian started already although low level BRIX and cutting a bit white inside.

**Melons** cantaloupe and Galia, season in full flow from south America so good availability.

## Exotics

Avocadoes Always difficult in October as Peru season comes to an end, We have a change in regions in Colombia so no fruit arriving until end of month and Chilean fruit will be available but it is the start of their season.

Beans, Mangetout, sugar snaps will be tough in October now due to the rains in Kenya. Not just on price but shelf life in terms of quality.

The season in Guatemala is now at and end with Mangetout and sugarsnaps which once again does not help the price.

Asparagus will be Peruvian with plenty of availability but still expensive due to issues around airfreight.





# Exotics Continued

Limes from both Brazil and Mexico, Fruit from Brazil is plentiful but the better quality limes will be Mexican although a little higher in price.

Pineapples remain very good quality with plenty of fruit available.

Mango no issues expected with good fruit arriving daily from Brazil and Peru.  
Pomegranate Spanish with plenty of availability.

Padron peppers very good quality arriving from Morocco and Spain.

Chillies long red and Green more difficult with prices rising due to low availability.

Strawberries UK season will now start coming to an end. Dutch and Belgium season are in full flow although very high in price. This is nothing new as normally October and November are the months to avoid Strawberries.

Raspberries similar in the fact UK season will now end. We will have to move over to Spanish fruit but this is start of season so will struggle with colour and size at the beginning.

Blueberries will be south American fruit, very good quality and nice large fruit.

Blackberries Belgium this time of year, plenty of availability and very good fruit expected.

Papaya good quality and arriving daily although prices still high.

Garlic no issues with plenty of availability from Spain.

Ginger still proving expensive with less arriving into Europe although quality proving very good.

## Vegetables

UK Broccoli still arriving in very good quality and should be good value throughout October.

UK cauliflowers are proving very difficult as the late warm summer is now catching up with planted products, so best quality is hard to find and at a premium.

UK Primo and Hispi cabbage very good value and excellent quality.

UK Red and White cabbage the same very good value.

UK Savoy cabbage has been coming through in great condition and this is set to continue.

UK courgette season has now finished so we will move over to Spanish until Moroccan season starts.



# Vegetables

UK Pumpkin season has started and some of the monster ones look amazing.

UK potatoes all very good with no issues expected.

UK Carrots, Swede, Parsnips will get better now temperatures are dropping.

Onions no issues with very good Spanish arriving on the market.

Very good UK Purple, Candy, Golden beetroot available.

Aubergines no issues expected as we start to see more Spanish product arrive on the market alongside Dutch product.

Capsicums Could be difficult as Dutch and Polish season are coming to an end early and Spanish season is not quite ready yet due to warm weather. Dutch peppers are struggling with colour and shape.

Tomatoes Round no issues with good quality still arriving out of Holland. Beef and Plum slightly more difficult as they are picking them slightly earlier. Baby tomatoes no issues with fruit arriving from Morocco, Spain and Holland.

Cucumbers Spanish production will be in full swing within the next ten days along with Dutch product still available on the market.

Lettuce Iceberg, Cos, Little gem will continue from UK throughout October although on the light side due to weather. Spanish production will be in full swing in two weeks-time. Lollo rosso, Oakleaf will continue from UK,

Round lettuce been very good all year although with daylight disappearing earlier it will become more difficult.

Celery Will be UK crop until November with no issues around availability. New crop Spanish will start at the end of October just as UK comes to an end.

Very good Italian Fennel and Radicchio.

## Salad





# Rungis

Gone are the stone and summer fruits, and many of the salads etc. are coming from much further south. The South of France and the Italians start sending in their various radicchios, in particular the pale, spotted Castel Franco or La Rosa. This bitterness is typical of the time of year with the French turning more to chicory. There is a range of white ones but also the red and the softer, rounder Carmine. Lambs lettuce is very good and we start to see the very best watercress. The large, deep green leaves are bursting with goodness and peppery flavour and the huge bunches make them great for catering and retail alike.

All sorts of roots are available in October. The more unusual ones like Crosne's and Oca du Perou join the myriad of coloured beetroots, radis' and carrots. The white Helianthis is also around and the last radis, the Rose de Chine, begins its season.

Fruit becomes citrus oriented. Spanish clementine's become the most popular fruit of the moment, Spanish Primofiori lemons begin, as do oranges and we see Bergamot from North Africa. Morocco has now earned a reputation for growing much more citrus now and unusual varieties like Cedra, Finger Limes and Sudachi are appearing. Fresh Yuzu should also be available.

A couple of other fruits worth mentioning are kiwi and walnut. European kiwi begins with green fruit from Greece and the Gold kiwi from Italy. While wet or fresh walnuts are around already, the best-known fried variety, Franquette, begins now.

The Top Fruit range just keeps growing and growing with new apples including Gradirose, a prelude to Pink Lady, Golden Rosée, with its distinctive blush, and the red fleshed Red Love all starting in October.

The mushroom section is in full swing in the autumn, subject to the weather! The market should have plenty of Cepes, Chanterelle, Charbonnier, Coulemelle, Lactaire, Pied de mouton and Trompette.



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