

OLIVER KAY

Fresh Produce Update

Week commencing 18/09/2023

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Fruit Of The Week



Easy Peelers

S. African Nadorcott. Sweet, juicy fruit which goes well with chicken in savoury in salads.

Veg Of The Week



Savoy Cabbage

UK grown. Versatile veg with a delicate taste. Makes an ideal, wrapping for steamed parcels.

Quality Update

Key: ● = Alert ● = Warning ● = Resolved / For Info

CODE	PRODUCT	MARKET SITUATION	PHYSICAL CONDITION	COMMENTS/ACTION
25665 71644	Strawberry	Autumnal conditions towards the end of UK season.	Very reduced shelf-life seen in some varieties.	Use quickly. Order less more frequently.
75057 75043	Lamb's Lettuce	Quality issues in French crop due to weather.	Reduced shelf-life. Excluding use in bagged mixes.	Order more frequently if possible and use quickly.
All Codes	Capsicum Peppers	Reduced growth & slow ripening due to overcast weather.	Sizes towards the lower end of specification. Some colour flash.	Information only.
All Codes	UK Potato	High moisture content with delicate skins. Wet, muggy weather not helping matters.	Some improvements seen in quality over the past week but shelf-life still very short.	Careful handling & cool storage essential.
75152 75242	Small and Medium Orange	Shortage of small fruit. Using Mandarin cultivars to ensure supply & required count.	Some Mandarin hybrids may be flatter in shape than traditional oranges.	Information only.
99866 75515 75589	Cherry Tomato	Reduced availability due to weather and quality issues.	Substituting premium cherry plum varieties to cover any shortfalls.	Information only.
75085 75534 74919 74897 75069 75087	Iceberg Cos & Little Gem	A late hot spell followed by prolonged rain has led to rapid growth and a risk of mildew formation.	Heads are lighter in weight and very delicate. Pinking to outer leaves. Trimming back to remove any mildew affected leaves.	Reduced shelf-life. Remove affected outer leaves.

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Additional Information

Following a generally poor Summer, we are now crossing over in to Autumn. This is the second of our main seasonal shoulders during the year and as a result we will start to see Northern European crops wind down due to the shorter daylight hours and cooler, duller weather.

Tomatoes & Peppers: Inconsistent spells of high heat mixed with cooler, dull weather is affecting growth and quality. We are seeing some tenderness in fruit and a mixture of both forward and backwards batches coming through.

Lamb's Lettuce: Spells of very changeable weather in France since July are adversely affecting the quality and shelf-life of the harvested crop with a high amount of wastage after shipping. Improvements towards the end of the month are expected as hardier varieties start to come through.

Supply Update: Nectarines are now finished. UK Courgettes will be finishing this week and although quality is good, sizes will be on the larger side. We will see a mixture of both UK and Spanish deliveries before moving to all Spanish next week.