

OLIVER KAY

Fresh Produce Update

Week commencing 25/09/2023

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Fruit Of The Week



Cooking Apples

New UK Bramley variety now in stock. Great in cakes, tarts and puddings.

Veg Of The Week



Cauliflower

UK grown. Enjoy baked or steamed. Florets now also becoming popular battered and fried.

Quality Update

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

CODE	PRODUCT	MARKET SITUATION	PHYSICAL CONDITION	COMMENTS/ACTION
25665 71644	Strawberry	Last of UK crop. Using mix of UK & EU glass house fruit over the week.	Berries are very delicate with reduced shelf-life especially in UK origin.	Use quickly. Order less more frequently.
75057 75043	Lamb's Lettuce	Delicate French crop. Should improve next month.	Reduced shelf-life. Removed from use in some 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 conditions affecting lifting.	Quality improved but shelf-life still short. Ventilated cool storage essential.	Careful handling needed. Order less more often.
75152 75242	Small and Medium Orange	Supply shortage into EU. Using Mandarin cultivars to ensure supply & correct counts.	Quality is good. Some Mandarin hybrids appear flatter in shape than traditional oranges.	Information only.
All codes	Tomato (especially Beef, round Cherry, & Intense)	Mixture of origins used to ensure supply. Cherry & intense with low market availability.	Mixed colour depending on country of origin with reduced shelf-life some batches.	Order more frequently if possible and use quickly.
All Codes	Iceberg Cos, Little Gem & Batavia	Late hot spell/ rain causing rapid growth & the risk of mildew. Fluffy, delicate heads.	Reduced life. Heads prone to handling /packing damage. Pinking to outer leaves & ribs.	Trim off 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 : Inconsistent spells of high heat mixed with cooler, dull weather is affecting growth and quality. We are seeing some tenderness in tomatoes and a mixture of both forward and backwards colour batches depending on country of origin. Beef & intense especially may have greener shoulders. Ripening affected fruit further (were possible) before release.

Melons: Honeydew taste is good but skin finish has become quite scruffy again with a lot of sugar spotting. We are also having to utilise some 7 count Watermelons so singles may be towards the lower end of the weight specification this week.

Seasonal Update: UK courgettes now finished. Starting supply of Moroccan cherry tomatoes from end of this week. Pumpkins will start supply from next week with pre-order chocolate and toffee apples to follow towards the end of October.