

OLIVER KAY

Fresh Produce Update

Week commencing 02/10/2023

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Fruit Of The Week



Heritage Tomato

French origin. Adds wonderful colour to salads, salsas and tarts.

Veg Of The Week



Butternut Squash

Portuguese Ariel variety. Great roasted, mashed or used for soup.

Quality Update

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

CODE	PRODUCT	MARKET SITUATION	PHYSICAL CONDITION	COMMENTS/ACTION
All Codes	Lemons	South African origin.	Good external appearance but finding odd internal defects in some batches.	Information only.
25665 71644	Strawberry	Seasonal change over. Mix of Scottish & Dutch fruit.	Glass House Dutch berries are very delicate with reduced life.	Use quickly. Order less more frequently.
75057 75043	Lamb's Lettuce	French Crop.	More robust leaves now coming through.	Issue now resolved.
All Codes	Capsicum Peppers	Reduced growth & slow ripening due low light levels.	Sizes towards the lower end of specification. Some colour flash.	Information only.
All Codes	UK Potato	High moisture content with delicate skins.	Quality and shelf-life improved. Ventilated cool storage essential.	Handle carefully.
All codes	Tomato	Reduced availability. Using a mixture of origins to ensure supply.	Ripeness may vary slightly depending on country of origin. Some fruit may be tender.	Order more frequently if possible and use quickly.
75085 75534	Iceberg Lettuce	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.	Careful 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.

Melons: Honeydew skin finish has improved this week. We are using some 7 count Watermelons so singles may be towards the lower end of the weight specification this week.

Seasonal Update: Pumpkins now becoming available with pre-order chocolate and toffee apples to follow towards the end of the month.