

OLIVER KAY

Fresh Produce Update

Week commencing 09/10/2023

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Fruit Of The Week



Seasonal Pears

Conference variety. Dutch and Belgian origin. Great poached, in tarts or with cheese.

Veg Of The Week



Celeriac

UK grown. 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	Tomatoes	Short supply. Using a mix of origins. Round cherry to be used if plum not available.	Mixed maturity. Some tenderness to riper fruit. Some batches may be under colour.	Reduced Life. Use quickly and avoid holding stock.
75085 75534	Iceberg Lettuce	UK crop finishing early due to poor weather. Spain to start from next week.	UK reduced life. Heads prone to internal defects & handling damage. Pinkening to outer leaves & ribs.	Trim off affected sections.
98493 02449 75278	Bok and Pak Choi	UK crop. Mild weather & fewer chemicals increasing pests.	Appearance improved but still odd damage noted to leaves.	Some leaves may not be suitable for display.
75075 09398	Broccoli	Scottish fields waterlogged affecting availability & quality.	Quality currently good but rots & mildew are a concern due to standing water.	Use quickly and avoid holding stock.
All Codes	Cos & Fancy Lettuce	UK crop. Wet humid weather increasing field rots & mildews.	Heads stripped back to remove affected leaves so may be towards lower end of spec size.	Use quickly and avoid holding stock.
All Codes	Capsicum Peppers	End of Dutch season.	Sizes towards the lower end of specification. Some colour flash.	Information only.
75687 75664	Soft Herbs	UK origin. Wet, humid weather affecting quality.	Reduced shelf-life. Some discolouration to leaves.	Use quickly and avoid holding stock.

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Additional Information

Northern European salads finishing earlier than expected this year due to poor weather. We may see a dip in quality and some gaps in availability as we move to Mediterranean/ North African origins

Tomatoes: Inconsistent spells of high heat mixed with cooler, dull weather are affecting growth and harvest quality during the seasonal shoulder. We are seeing tenderness in some coloured fruit and trying to manage a mixture of maturities depending on country of origin and fruit type.

UK Crops: Continued mild, wet weather is making harvest difficult and increasing the numbers of pests and quality defects in the field. Growers are having to abandon some crops and trim others back harshly to make them usable. Seasonal bagged salad lines will also be changing their mixes soon to reflect the new imported crop.

Seasonal: Autumn favourites such as pumpkins 75026, 75097, 85714 and gourds 96069 now becoming available with chocolate apples 58088 and toffee apples 75274 to pre-order.