

## Produce Market Report December-11

### POTATOES

The potato harvest is almost complete, with only small areas to be harvested due to full ambient stores and some wet conditions in the North. Quality generally is good with some bruising and some sprouting issues due to the mild conditions in the ambient stores. Prices have stabilised recently and with ample stocks prices should remain at a reasonable level

### VEGETABLES

Leeks, parsnips, celeriac, turnip, swede and carrots continue to be in good supply and are excellent quality. Spanish broccoli is now on stream although some UK broccoli and cauliflowers are still available due to the mild conditions leading into December. Winter squashes (excellent roasting vegetables) are readily available with an increasing number of varieties now being grown. Pumpkins are now from France as the UK season is finished. Good quality Brussels sprouts are in the wholesale markets ready for the Christmas fayre menus.

### SALAD

The mild weather has extended the transfer period from UK / Dutch supply over to the Spanish season however the majority of core salad items are now being provided by Spain, France and Italy. In general supply is good and there has not been the price spikes experienced in previous years.

### FRUIT

The southern hemisphere fruit season will start shortly. Raspberries and blueberries are available and consistent in quality, however more expensive at this time of year. Strawberries have been very short in supply due to production gaps and the political unrest in Egypt, prices should moderate as Israel product will arrive shortly. Kumquats and leafy Clementine's make an attractive addition to your Christmas menus. Brazilian grapes, melons, figs and papaya are good quality at present. UK and European apples and pears are available in good volumes. Sharon fruit are mid season at present excellent quality from Spain and Israel who are also providing excellent pomegranates. USA cranberries are readily available in the markets.

Do not forget your holly, mistletoe, trees, chestnuts, and dates for the festive season, speaking of which I may take this opportunity to wish you and your staff a Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy and rewarding 2012 from all at NCB Foodservice Ltd.