

PRODUCE MARKET REPORT NOVEMBER-11

POTATOES

This year's potato harvest is almost complete with over 90% of the crop into storage. Prices have moderated over the last 6-8 weeks and they are now at a level we have not seen for some time. Tuber sizes have been good and large bakers should be freely available this year. The European producers along with Russia have had a better crop than last year this will negate the need for the levels of imports/exports experienced last year which held prices throughout the season.

VEGETABLES

All root vegetables are in good supply and of good quality; as are broccoli, beetroot and Brussels sprouts. Cauliflower supply is still good as no substantial frost has occurred, however cauliflower supply will be moving to France and Germany in the coming weeks as the weather gets colder. Cabbages are also good quality and freely available along with kale and celeriac. Pumpkins, squash, chestnuts, wet walnuts, and wild mushrooms are all at their best this month.

SALADS

The change over from Dutch and UK supply to winter salad supply from Spain is now underway with the transition likely to be complete within the next couple of weeks. During this period when the Dutch and UK crop finishes there could be slight variations in quality, as the Dutch/ UK season finishes and the Spanish season settles down. Supply at present is good with few shortages due to the continued supply of UK and Dutch products because of the reasonably good weather experienced over the last few weeks.

FRUITS & BERRIES

Local apples varieties such as Cox, and Egremont Russet are now available, qualities are low in relation to total consumption and the esthetic qualities are not the same as the supermarket specification nevertheless the eating quality is excellent. The persimmon (sharonfruit) season starts in November with supply from Spain, Italy and Israel. Soft fruits as you would expect at this stage of the year are not so prolific, nevertheless there are still some UK raspberries available and the quality has been excellent this year. Stone fruits are mainly restricted to plums from France Italy and Spain, although peaches and nectarines are still available their quality is average as the EU season comes to an end, this should improve with the South African, Chilean and Argentinean seasons which start shortly. Turkish and Brazilian figs are now available in good supply following severe shortages over the last 6-8 weeks. Medjoul dates from Israel and Cranberries from the USA are also now in the markets.