



MARKET REPORT – AUGUST 2017



Going out of season:

Blackberries, blueberries, cherries, peaches, red currants, strawberries and mangetout.

Vegetables in season:

Aubergine, beetroot, chicory, courgette, fennel, French beans, globe artichoke, kohlrabi, marrow, runner beans and swiss chard.

Salads in season:

Cucumber, spring onion, radish, rocket, tomatoes and watercress.

Fruits in season:

Apples, apricots, grapes, greengages, nectarines and raspberries.

Seasonal update:

The British **sweetcorn** season has begun, with fine crops and good value expected. Orange **Chantenay carrots** are also a good buy, along with plenty of home-grown **courgettes** and **squashes**.

An excellent substitute for **spinach**, **chard** is currently better value and arguably even more tasty.

On the fruit front, the British **apple** season is under way, with peaches and **nectarines** also at their ripest and juiciest. **Grapes** from Spain and Italy are of good quality now, with reasonable prices available for both black and white grapes.

Market conditions and value:

Fresh food price rises finally begin to slow

Since reaching their highest levels in June this year, food price rises reduced to 1.2% in July, according to figures released by the British Retail Consortium (BRC). Fresh food had been the most affected by the impact of post-Brexit currency depreciation, which is now beginning to subside.

The BRC warned, however, that fresh food inflation could well pick up again in the coming months, due to generally reduced demand and seasonal pricing fluctuations.

Decrease in labour supply affects quality.

A July report from the Association of Labour Providers has highlighted major concerns that recruiters for the food and agriculture sectors will not be able to find enough workers in the coming months.

Not only has supply decreased, but quality has also been affected, with half of the firms questioned reporting that the quality of workers was worse than 12 months before. 45% were concerned that they would not be able to source the right labour for the busy Christmas period.

Government plans for a Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme have been proposed, with details still to be finalised.

We hope you enjoy the last days of summer, and we look forward to seeing you again as Autumn begins, with our September report.

