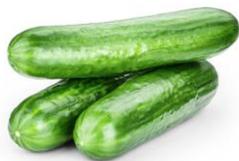




MARKET REPORT – JULY 17

Vegetables in Season

Cucumber, lettuce, aubergine, courgettes, beetroot, spinach, watercress, runner beans, heritage carrots



Fruit in Season

Cherries, bananas, gooseberries, nectarines, raspberries, redcurrants, strawberries, watermelon



Post-Brexit price rise for bananas

Home-grown doesn't get much better than in July, even with Brexit looming on the horizon. Uncertainty in the marketplace is abound however, and the post-Brexit currency crash – together with recent poor weather in central and South America – has seen the price of **bananas** rise 18.7% year on year.



NFU issues a government warning

The NFU have issued a warning to the government about lack of action over seasonal workers. 80,000 seasonal workers are employed in the UK every year, mostly from the EU. Following Brexit there are concerns that fresh produce prices will be threatened later in the year, particularly when the UK apple season begins in September. Plans for a Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme have been proposed, with details to be finalised.



Seasonal update

Better news comes with the recent good weather in the UK, bringing a sweeter than usual crop of **blackcurrants** that began 2 weeks earlier than usual. **Strawberries** are also coming down in price, and cherries – along with watermelons – are fantastic value this season.



Don't forget that the **cherry** season is pretty short, usually ending in early August, so be quick.

Citrus fruit, on the other hand, remains expensive. This is mainly because at this time of year **lemons, oranges, grapefruit** and **limes** are imported from growers in the Southern Hemisphere. Partly due to the weak pound, there is also increased demand from emerging markets including China and Russia, that is driving the increase in price.



Stone fruit, such as **peaches** and **nectarines**, are imported from mainland Europe and excellent value, even if the exchange rate means these are not quite as cheap as in previous years.

On the vegetable front, home-grown **peas** and **broad beans** are available until early August, and the **courgette season** is well under way. These are fantastic value at the moment, as are young **Heritage carrots** and **beetroot**.



Wishing you a fantastic and plentiful month, and we'll be back in August with our next seasonal update.