



MARKET REPORT

Going Home or Away?

MAY UPDATE

Each month Dole provides an update on what is happening in the marketplace.

We explain which new lines we expect to see in the following month, the produce causing us concern and which lines are at their very best.

OVERVIEW

It is the month squeezed between Spring and Summer with a glorious array of home produce, new beginnings in the salad world and a dazzling selection of stone fruit.

We have welcoming news of the soft fruit season along with an eruption of Spanish flavours expected over the coming weeks.

The arrival of UK lettuce is fast approaching, along with increased volumes of some cracking Dutch and Belgian produce. Weather conditions are always a key factor in availability, and with so many products in transition, this is especially key in the coming period.

It's all about looking for safe home bankers and searching for value away from home.

VEGETABLES

The asparagus season has been sensational this year, with some delightful produce arriving from our growers across the country.

For menu planners, the season officially comes to an end on June 21st. Jersey Royals volumes are increasing, with product also becoming available from Cornwall and Pembrokeshire.



The Spanish broccoli season will draw to a close end of the month with transition to the UK. Our growers are upbeat about the coming season, due to the warmer temperatures.

The Spanish Onion season draws to a close and moving over to Chilean which will mean a jump in cost.

Consider UK peas this month, which are a terrific way to add some freshness to the plate.



FRUIT

The big news is the return of homegrown soft fruit. Strawberries are have been flowing through the door throughout the country from our soft fruit growers.



Raspberries will follow towards the end of the month, although this is very weather-driven, the key ingredient is warmer evening temperatures!

For an explosion of flavour, consider Spanish stone fruit. Peaches and nectarines are due to arrive, along with flat varieties, in the coming weeks.



The transition over to Spanish melons will begin this month. When ready to eat, the sweet fruit has an unequalled taste, and purists will state that only melons from Spain should be used in the seasonal calendar.

UK cherries are always a classic sign that summer has arrived, and we may see a few squeezing in by the end of the month.

SALAD

Dutch produce is now in full flow with quality, as you would expect, absolutely top notch, with no concerns over product volumes.

The month ahead is the perfect time to showcase the humble tomato. There are a multitude of varieties arriving from Holland, together with UK Heritage tomatoes.



The colourful gems, which will add an instant glow to a summer plate, have a delightful mixture of subtle flavours and simply adore a sprinkle of Sea Salt.

Cucumbers are arriving from Holland, with pockets of UK also available. Dutch Peppers, with almost precision-like uniformity, are arriving in all colours.



WHAT'S NEW

Strawberries
UK Heritage Tomatoes
Nettles
UK Peas
Spanish Melons
Spanish Stone Fruit

Whole head salad will move from Spain to the UK supply early in the month.

Lollo rosso, oakleaf and the trustworthy iceberg will all begin to arrive from Kent & Lincolnshire. Early reports from UK growers have been, in the main, positive, although weather conditions will be the key factor in availability.

PLANNING AHEAD?

Raspberries
Spanish Melons
Spanish Stone Fruit
Broccoli
UK Cherries



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