



Dales Newsletter March edition

Good Morning Readers

It's been a while.....!!

Just a quick note to bring you up to date with what's happening in our wonderful and ever changing world of fresh produce.

Weather Report UK

Well what can I say.....late February and we've seen temperatures as high as 20 degrees, blue skies, blossom on trees, daffodils in full bloom and lawns being cut....really..!!! What is going on...!!! But because we are British, we'll take it, regardless of what's behind it, let's just hope the beast from the East isn't going to make a late appearance this year.

Weather Report Spain / Canaries

It would seem temperatures are rising here too, Spain is experiencing up to 25 degrees during the day and the Canaries as high as 28 – so all round the growing conditions are just where we'd like them.

Some of the earlier crops are now coming an end, whilst the later spring crops are just about to start, but as we stand, no major issues to report.

What you need to know now...!!

Fine beans – Its desperate out in Kenya, soaring temperatures are causing serious problems to this product, lack of growth and dehydration in the main, there are very small pockets of bean coming from such like Tanzania and surrounding countries, however, these are very small quantities and the bean is more like a bobby bean than a fine bean.

Please note – this situation is likely to be for some weeks to come..!! Please advise your customers where you can to substitute.

Celery

Volumes are incredibly limited right now and prices are sky high too, this is simply down to one crop finishing and the spring crop starting, which has created a shortage, I expect this to be the case for at least two weeks

Brexit...

Forget it.....let's move on..!!

Fresh fruit information

UK apple - such as Cox, Russets and Braeburn are just about done now – an excellent English season once more.

Juicing Orange – The perfect juicer, Egyptian Baladi's , the juice content on these amazing fruits is fantastic, the skin finish can be a little suspect but for fresh orange juice, this is just the ticket..!

Easy Peeler – All clementine's and satsuma has finished, which leaves the Naddercots on their own, therefore demand will rise and so will the prices – you have been warned..!!

Melons – The Brazilian season has just about finished as we move into the Costa Rican season for a short period, next stop after that is Panamanian.....this period tends to be difficult in terms of volume and availability.

Stone fruit – Peach and nectarine are available from the Southern Hemisphere but my advice is stay away, as these products never ripen properly and tend to go grey inside first. There are still pockets of cherry about at the moment and the varieties of South African plums are coming through quite nicely.

Banana – is and will remain strong for the next few weeks, this is simply down to lack of fruit coming through caused by crop disease which is quite common at this time of year.

The Berry Story

Blueberry – fruit has been plentiful but it's now turning round – prices will rise.

Blackberry – Reasonable volumes available, coping quite nicely with the demand.

Raspberry – Fruit is excellent and with good temperatures in Spain and Portugal, fruit is meeting demands.

Strawberry – With the recent upturn here in the UK, demand for strawberry has increased somewhat, which is just putting the Spaniards under pressure.....however, it won't be long until we see a tiny bit of glass house fruit from Holland and the UK...watch this space.

Salads to go

As we know at this time of year certain products are nearing the end of their season and new seasons are looking to open their doors, this sometimes comes with little quality or supply issues, however I can report that at this moment in time there are no reported issues with:

Tomato products

All coloured peppers

Cucumbers

Salad leaf

The Vegetable selection

Again, good weather here in the UK and across Europe isn't doing us any harm in terms of supply, key lines such as broccoli and cauliflower etc. are plentiful with no reported issues.

Spanish onions will rise in price once moor as we move into the cold store product and Chilean moves ever closer. Please bare in mind that there are a lot of cheap and poor quality onions available but please avoid and stick to the quality brands such as "Improver" – I will keep you informed.

New starters / coming soon

Today has seen the first arrival of new season **Jersey Royals**....and how splendid they are too!

UK Asparagus – wo wo wo.....don't get to excited, there maybe a couple of box's available next week at crazy money but that's about it.....DONT FORGET, it's still only February..!!!

Peas and Broad beans from Spain are available – please ask for a price and I will deliver.

The products we sometimes forget.....read and be inspired

Purple sprouting broccoli
Rainbow carrot
Smoked garlic
Heritage Tomato
Red Chicory
Indian Pomegranates
January king cabbage
Sprouts – still available
Kale – plenty of varieties available – please ask
Rhubarb – keep going
Wet Garlic
Jerry Chokes
Multi coloured shakers
Leafy lemon and orange
Blood oranges

The end is nigh

Black cabbage
Multi coloured chantanay
Piccolo parsnip

PLEASE NOTE.....All of the above has painted quite a colourful picture in terms of the amazing weather we are experiencing right now.....BUT....as and when it changes.....situations and crops etc. could all change in an instantsorry to bring you back down to earth with a bang...!! 😊