



# freshconnect.

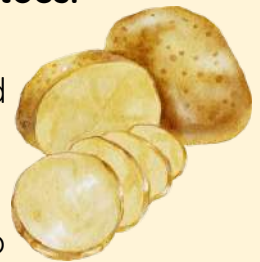
## Market REPORT

December 2023

### VEGETABLES & SALADS

Although we have lots to look forward to this month with Christmas around the corner, we also have to inform you of some issues on the horizon. Let's start with **Potatoes**, there has been a number of challenges this season with British Farming and the industry on the whole. Production costs have risen significantly meaning the lowest planting numbers in history. Around 10-15% of national crops have also been impacted by increased levels of rainfall and flooding. As expected this will inevitably have a knock on effect on cost & quality of **Potatoes**.

**Cauliflower** is still a struggle due to similar reasons to Potatoes plus anticipated frosty mornings is bound to have an impact. Storms at the end of last month have held French back even more. **Broccoli** could also be hit and miss after unprecedented problems in November. Before we move onto the positives also be mindful of **Prepared Brussels Sprouts** going very short due to cold & wet weather in Holland



**Kalettes** are stunning and a real highlight this month! **Kalette stalks** also available. **Brussel sprouts, stalks & tops** are bang in season. **Mixed Chantenay Carrots & Piccolo Parsnips** are fantastic and full of flavour & colour. They are also a chef's dream as minimum preparation. **Kale, Red Kale, Spring Green, Black Cabbage** and **Root Vegetables (swede, parsnips, turnips & carrots)** are our go to products and are great this time of year.

**Spanish lettuce** are in full swing (cos, gem, iceberg). Also **baby leaf, spinach & rocket** are usually temperamental this time of year but holding up well at the moment. All varieties of **Tomatoes, Peppers, Courgettes** again all seem stable for now but weather conditions could soon change things. **Avocado** volumes are still a little under pressure due to Chile not producing as much as normal and waiting on Columbian produce to increase availability.



@freshconnectveg

## FRUIT

**Kaki Fruit** is a fantastic alternative for stone fruit this time of year. **Pineapples** are great value for money aswell and **Melons (galia, ogen, honeydew, watermelon)** seem to be a stable environment. **English Apple** season is a delight, we are seeing lovely varieties from the farm in Tonbridge (**royal gala, braeburn and bramley**). French **Pink Lady** apples are coming in very nice at the moment with lots of colour.

**Grapes** are costing a pretty penny as they are now Southern Hemisphere and not 'grape' this time of year. **Brazilian Figs** have started now and are absolutely delicious, we highly recommend. **Berries** are still slightly inflated in price but we have seen a vast improvement with **Strawberries** coming from Morocco, Spain & Egypt.



**English Pears** are a delight at the moment, **Comice & Conference** variety with added support from Belgium. Some seasonal favourite picks this month are **Pomegranates, Quince & Cranberries** ... it's definitely worth baring these in mind and incorporating into festive menus. **Spanish citrus (lemons & oranges)** are gradually getting better and better. **Satsumas, Clementines & Leafy Clementines** have seen vast improvements and showing more colour on the skin. Spanish **Plums** will be finishing and transitioning over to South African towards the end of this month to beginning of next. **Limes** could potentially go short because of vessels being delayed due to storms in Brazil meaning it's taking longer to get here.

## MUSHROOMS & FORAGED

**Ceps** are lovely at the moment, **Yellow & Grey Chanterelle, Girolles, Mousseron, Pied du Mouton, Trompette & Truffles** are also around. Please contact the office for further information.



**\*During the Festive Period please order any prepared items with as much notice as possible to avoid the risk of any stock shortages\***

