



FRESHVIEW
Foods Ltd

Crop report - June

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The latest updates on the marketplace to help plan menus, what to look forward to and what to avoid.

The UK faces food shortages and price rises as extreme weather linked to climate breakdown causes low yields on farms locally and abroad.

Record rainfall has meant farmers in many parts of the UK have been unable to plant crops until end of April beginning of May such as potatoes, wheat and vegetables during the key spring season. Crops that have been planted are of poor quality, with some rotting in the ground.

The persistent wet weather has also meant a high mortality rate for lambs on the UK's hills, while some dairy cows have been unable to be turned out on to grass, meaning they will produce less milk.

Agricultural groups have said the UK will be more reliant on imports, but similarly wet conditions in European countries such as France and Germany, as well as drought in Morocco, could mean there is less food to import. Economists have warned this could cause food inflation to rise, meaning higher prices at supermarkets.

Farmer confidence is at an all time low says the new NFU survey

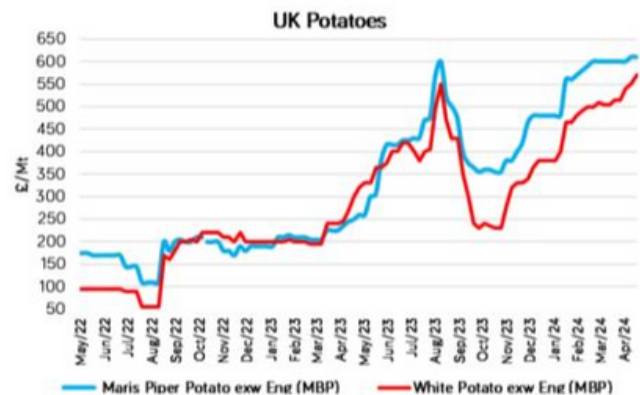
With a decline in confidence within the industry, the survey found production intentions had also plummeted, with all farming sectors expecting to decrease production over the next year. The NFU is calling for the Government to recognise 'the extraordinary nature' of what has been the wettest 18 months since 1836, warning that many farms 'may be unable to survive.'

Potatoes

Prices are at record highs in the UK as supply tightens and imports increase, and as the graph shows below the prices are continuing to rise each month until new season in July/August.

Import activity into the UK persists, with ongoing shipments entering the UK from the EU, Israel, and Egypt. This follows the decision by some supermarkets to remove the Union Jack from packaging. Market sources indicate that white potato imports are priced between £520/MT and £600/MT, with the variance attributed to quality differentials. Planting operations are underway in regions of England, predominantly on lighter soils. However, Scotland has been delayed in planting activities. Further delays would likely impact the timing of the 2024 harvest.

The new crop will be a little delayed due to late plantings, but the warmer weather could help speed the crop up. July and August we will see new crop lines available.



Vegetables

Cauliflower

The delayed planting due to the rain and lack of light levels has pushed the early summer crop back a few weeks. This has pushed prices to more than double. Mid-June we should see this start to turn around.

Broccoli

Broccoli has been steadily priced for a good few months with good supply for Spain. Availability will be reducing weekly until the UK season starts. We can expect prices to creep up over the next few weeks.

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Tenderstem broccoli

The UK crop has been delayed, Spain production is very minimal now and we have serious floods in Kenya. This has left Tenderstem extremely limited and is expected to last well into June.

The El Niño weather phenomenon, linked to the Pacific Ocean warming, is causing the heavy rains and flooding, which have killed at least 71 people and displaced more than 150,000 in Kenya.



Mangetout and sugar snaps

These lines have also been affected by the heavy rainfalls and is also very limited. The volume coming through is also struggling with quality understandably.

Leeks

Our UK grower has finished and we have moved over to imported Leeks. We will look to Spain, Belgium, France and the Dutch. Prices will remain high until the UK season starts again in the beginning of June.

Courgette

UK season is due to start Mid-June, Spanish volume is reducing in the meantime so we can expect prices to increase a little.

Carrots/Parsnips

We now have several options on imported carrots quality is good. Like the Leek the UK will start end of June beginning of July, possibly a little more delayed this year.

Cabbage

UK Red and white cabbage will be mostly finishing and we will be using imported Dutch mainly until New season starts in July. The cabbage tends to be a larger grade than the UK supply.

Fruit

Strawberries

UK outdoor production will increase making for a month of great tasting British Strawberries. The market is expected to be on the tighter side if the weather is with us and demand high, especially towards the end of the month in the run up to Wimbledon.

Raspberries

British Raspberries will gradually increase through June although Spanish/Portuguese fruit will likely be needed to supplement supply volumes.

Blueberries

Spanish supply should continue throughout June although volumes will decrease from this source with eastern European making a start. Some slight softness on Spanish is possible as temperatures increase at source here.

Blackberries

Spanish Sweet Royalla has been great tasting and this continues in June with a switch to UK production later in the month once UK outdoor picking starts.

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Citrus

There is a big move over to southern hemisphere fruit, covering oranges, grapefruit, lemons and easy peel. Prices typically rise each month now throughout the summer period.

Lemons

Spanish primafiori variety lemon has all but finished and we have moved over to Verna for a few weeks. This variety has Spanish origin, positioning itself as the second most important within Spain, after the Primofiori lemon, in addition to being ranked fifth globally. Actually, represents 20% of production and it is usually cultivated mainly within the orchards of both Murcia and Alicante. We will be starting on South African early June for the summer period.

Melons

This year has been a little different, we have been importing Fruit from Brazil instead of relying of the Melon from Almeria. We will be moving over Spanish Mercia Melons, quality and prices should be stable throughout the summer.

Onion

English and Dutch onion is readily available and has been stable on price. Spanish season has finished though there is some new season with no set skin, so no shelf life and quality will reduce very fast. Chilean Is available but nearly double the UK season price, though it is very large in size for those that need that.

Salads

Tomato

We have fully switched over to Dutch supply; quality is excellent across all lines and in good supply.

Little Gem

We have seen some issues with the last of the Spanish season and moved quickly over the UK Glasshouse. While there is a little less heart the quality is excellent. Outdoor UK little gem will now see us through to October.

Lollo rosso, oakleaf and lollo Biondi and Cos lettuce

We are now working with our Cheshire grower at woodlands farm. Quality is excellent. We will be using the UK supply now right through the summer into early Autumn.

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Buyers Choice - UK Gooseberry

A gooseberry is a small, tart fruit, often hidden beneath a veil of fuzzy skin, bursting with vitamin C and fibre. It is produced from a spiny shrub of the genus Ribes, which is in the same family as currants. Gooseberries range in size, colours, and surface texture, and can be smooth, striped, or slightly fuzzy. They are versatile and can be used for jams, desserts, or savoury dishes. They are available in June beginning of July through August depending on the weather.



Macronutrients and calories



Macronutrients (% calorie yield)	% Daily Value*
Total Fat - 0.6 g (11.02 %)	0 %
Saturated fat - 0 g	0 %
Polyunsaturated fat - 0.3 g	0 %
Monounsaturated fat - 0.1 g	0 %
Total Carbohydrate - 10 g (81.63 %)	3 %
Dietary fiber - 4.3 g	17 %
Protein - 0.9 g (7.35 %)	1 %

Micronutrients

Micronutrients	% Daily Value*
Vitamin C - 27.7 mg	46%
Vitamin B-6 - 0.1 mg	5%
Potassium - 198 mg	5%
Magnesium - 10 mg	2%
Calcium - 25 mg	2%
Iron - 0.3 mg	1%
Vitamin B-12 - 0 g	0%
Vitamin D - 0 g	0%
Vitamin A - 15 µg	0%
Sodium - 1 mg	0%
Cholesterol - 0 mg	0%

Facts about gooseberries

1. Gooseberries can be round, oval, pear-shaped or elongated.
2. Gooseberries coming in several colours -green, white, yellow, purple, red-brown or black Gooseberries can be sweet and tart.
3. Gooseberries outer surface can be smooth or fuzzy (hairy) with conspicuous veins.
4. Gooseberries Inside, may hold 15-30 tiny edible seeds.
5. Gooseberries measure 1-2 cm in width and weigh about 4 g to 10 g.
6. Gooseberries are an excellent source of vitamin-C. 100 g of fresh berries provide 27.7 µg or 46% of daily-recommended intake values of vitamin C.