

# CROP REPORT

March 2026





## Meet Simon – Our Procurement Expert

Simon leads procurement, overseeing fresh, dairy, and dry goods. With 20 years' experience, he excels in trading, importing, and supplier relations. His industry knowledge is second to none, here's his March 2026 crop report...

## POTATOES

Weather delays European potatoes; growers switch to dormant varieties.



**Mediterranean new Cyprus** – The last of the Winter crop Spunta is arriving. It has been very wet in Cyprus but first lifting of Spring crop could start at the end of next week. Majorca – Planting has finally finished but strong winds have caused damage to the earliest plantings for export which will now be delayed. Spain – Following the lengthy wet period, seed has sprouted excessively and some growers have decided not to grow the crop.

### EARLY CROP

**Jersey** – Recent planting at end of February was good, although more rain is forecast progress should be back on track during first week of March. Earliest plantings on the cotils are marking the rows well. Lifting of the indoor crop should start at the end of next week.

**Cornwall** – Conditions remain very difficult but there has been limited planting this week on the lightest soils. It was raining today but a drier period is forecast next week. Earliest M.Peer, L. Christl, Paris, Jazzy and Arrow are marking the rows well and some growers have completed programmed planting for April, May and early June. In Pembroke there is still no planting. The East of the UK has Limited planting and only started on the lightest soils in Suffolk although more rain is forecast.

Chipping potatoes more people looking to switch over to more dormant varieties, mainly Markies and Agria for better quality.

## Vegetables



## AUBERGINES

Continues in limited supply and strong prices.

The quality is particularly good also enhanced by the cooler conditions that benefit the crops. Better light conditions and better weather we should see an improvement through March.

## SAVOY CABBAGE

A number of issues may raise their ugly head for this period.

There is not a huge amount of UK left to harvest and what is available will soon deteriorate, we are expecting to see the outer leaf quality drop off considerably. The biggest issue is going to be imported Savoy, 70 % of the Portuguese Savoy has been lost due to flooding and given that they produce most of Europe's Savoy for March, April and May we will have a real issue on our hands.

UK planting has not started yet, so farmers are a little behind, this is due to the wet conditions, now they don't have any concerns with the delay and it would appear weather patterns are changing.



## CAULIFLOWER

Good quality at the moment and no issues with supply.

## SPRING CABBAGE

Looking a lot better for March and will be able to achieve good quality and weights.

This has been a struggle with the growth in the last couple of months



Vegetables

## RED & WHITE CABBAGE



90% stored stock currently with the last harvest taking place this week with one variety that can stand being out in winter conditions down to -5°C.



Smaller retail sizes will become a premium during the next 3 months. Europe is having a bad season where a high % of their crop being of the larger size meaning the smaller 1kg heads will be a premium especially in Red.

Planting will take place during the first weeks of March, once the land has dried out more. This will be approx. 4 weeks later than this year so depending on the weather in the next 3 months it could be a challenging start to the summer campaign.

## HISPI

Will remain difficult until the UK crop starts early April.



## BROCCOLI

The overall production remains the same and with about enough volume to meet demand.



We hope the weather to become stable although it is still cold, particularly at night. The cooler weather though has been enhancing quality which is improving in relation to previous weeks.



## LEEKs

Over the next few weeks UK leek availability will be reduced and may need to be rationed.

Last year's prolonged dry spell, followed by a mild winter and sudden frosts, has affected crop performance in certain blocks. As a result, we are managing volumes carefully to maintain our usual quality standard.

This means weekly offerings will be slightly limited over the next coming weeks.

## CARROTS

UK carrot quality has been slipping away and we are moving onto straw-stored carrot, prices are starting to increase.



The UK crop this year is down meaning we will be more heavily reliant on imported carrots, which again will see prices rise.

## COURGETTE

Volume remains limited and we cannot see an improvement until April when we hope to see the weather improving.



The quality in general is good and will improve further as the weather improves. The prices will hold at the current prominent levels during next week.

## KALE

Great availability and quality.



Fruit

## MELONS - BRAZIL

Overall quality and condition are good, with good eating quality across all lines.



Several of the farms have recorded a small number of light rain showers in the past 7 days, while other farms have not recorded any rain at all. The forecast for the next 5 days is for cloudy / overcast conditions with the possibility of drizzle or isolated showers and thunderstorms. Temperatures are 23-33°C on average. Light winds. Crop development is as expected.

Overall availability remains good and we do not expect to see any issues or shortages.

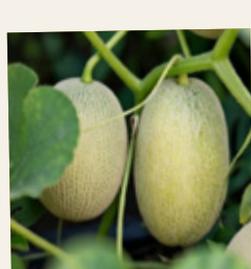


## WATERMELON

Good quality, increased levels of scarring present but overall clean condition and good eating quality.

## YELLOW MELON

Quality good with occasional minor discolouration / brown spotting observed, some wind scarring noted.



## CANTALOUPE

Good quality, the flesh is good colour and flavour, with excellent brix (sweetness levels).

## GALIA

Good quality, with good brix levels and eating quality. Some minor pepper spotting observed.



## BLOOD ORANGE

We have this product for March and April and then its finished for another year. Taste, internal colour and appearance is excellent.

## STONE FRUIT

Still only Chilean fruit about, Spain will start in April, maybe some towards the back end of March – weather pending.



## LEMONS

Primofiori lemons are coming to the end of the season, and we will be moving onto Verna lemons.

## FORCED RHUBARB

We are now stocking small volumes due to regular sales. Prices still remain high.

Outdoor Rhubarb is hoping to be ready for Mother's Day weekend.



Fruit



## STRAWBERRIES

Availability is improving but the fruit is still delicate.

The farms have been devastated by recent weather (4-5 weeks of continuous rain) and growers are “cleaning fields” which is removing poor fruit from the plants so that the plant can focus on new growth. This means labour is being used for cleaning fields rather than picking good fruit.

There will also be a delay before the plant starts producing strong fruit. Prices are coming down, but quality and availability are still a concern for another few weeks.

## BLUEBERRIES

Spanish and Moroccan season has begun, although prices are high at the moment.



## RASPBERRIES

Are looking to remain difficult throughout March, March is typically a difficult time of year for raspberries, made worse by delays in much of Morocco due to recent weather.

The peak has been significantly delayed, and we are looking at another few weeks at least of low availability and very high prices.



## BLACKBERRIES

Mexican supply over the next few weeks looks difficult, we are hoping to continue as normal but expect some stumbling blocks.

Dutch has not started yet, but when it does (in April time) we will be looking at much higher prices. For now we are using Mexican.



Salads

## ROUND TOMATO

No changes, yet another week where the overall production remains limited as the weather conditions have remained cooler both in Spain and Morocco.

The quality in general remains good although some varieties have been affected with the colder and rainy conditions over the last couple of weeks. As a result, some fruit is still affected by black spot caused by Alternaria and Botrytis plus lengthy delays on arrival not helping.

We hope to see volume steadily increasing for departures during early March as well as seeing an improvement on quality as the weather is beginning to settle.



Salads

## ITALY – BABY LEAF & EUROPEAN HERB PRODUCTION



Looking ahead into March, overall supply across baby leaf and core herb lines remains stable.

Seasonal temperature improvements in Southern Europe are supporting steady growth rates, while imported lines (Kenya, Israel, Morocco) continue to provide consistent volumes for key foodservice herbs.

No major supply gaps are forecast at this stage. Growth rates may remain slightly weather-dependent in early March but are expected to strengthen as daylight hours increase.

### Growing Conditions

- Day temperatures trending 14–18°C
- Night temperatures 5–9°C
- Increasing daylight hours improving growth rates
- Soil moisture levels balanced
- No significant frost events forecast

### Baby Leaf Outlook – March

- Rocket: Stable growth, good pepper profile, strong leaf
- Spinach: Slightly slower in early March but improving mid-month
- Chard & speciality leaves: Good colour development
- Mixed leaf: Balanced availability across varieties

Quality is expected to be good, with improved leaf strength as temperatures stabilise. French production will continue to support core leaf lines through March.

- Protected crops performing consistently
- Minimal pest pressure
- Stable field access
- Improving growth rates as temperatures rise

French supply provides additional security on programmed volumes.



## WILD GARLIC

Started in February with some French availability and very expensive, we will see some UK and more reasonably priced in March.

## CUCUMBERS

The overall production is now slowly improving.



The poor weather conditions over the past weeks has interrupted production while the weather remains cold, cloudy, and raining for growers to pick.

The prices are remaining high across all sizes considering the volume from Morocco has been affected by prolonged delays. The quality is holding well.



## PEPPERS

A lot of Spanish growers have pulled up their crops due to the Thrips virus.

Many contracts have been cancelled due to limited supply. Also, very poor weather conditions in Almeria continue, where there has been extraordinarily fierce winds and very heavy rain, as a result, most growers have not been able to pick for two to three days meaning the overall availability has worsened even further in terms of supply. In consequence, this situation together with prolonged delays from Morocco has forced prices to increase.

## ICEBERG, LITTLE GEM, AND COS LETTUCE:



No real changes for another week with most open field crops, due to the heavy recent rain has decreased volume across all these products.

Moreover, many crops were brought forward too early at the start of the season, leading to the current production gap.

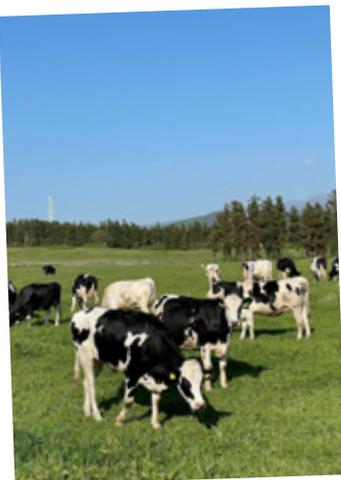
As the temperatures are improving, the crops are likely to soon start increasing production. Lollo Rosso/Oakleaf/lollo Biondi – quality has been surprisingly good considering its an open field crop. Prices remain stable.

Dairy News

## BULK CREAM PRICES EDGE UPWARDS

Bulk cream prices have moved in a more positive direction after last month's losses and have increased in price a little for the period.

Within that prices have moved overall upwards with some periods of wobble up and down. Although up slightly, prices are still suppressed by an over-abundance of milk and milk fat both here and on the continent. Compared to butter, cream is currently an under-valued commodity.



## BUYERS CHOICE - SPANISH BROAD BEAN

### DID YOU KNOW!!!

Broad beans are one of the oldest cultivated crops in the world, eaten in the Mediterranean for over 8,000 years.



Spanish broad beans have a limited season, starting in late January, running through February to April, peaking in March, and tailing off in May as the UK crop begins.

Spain's warmer winter temperatures allow harvesting while British crops are still developing, making them the first fresh podded beans of the year, with excellent pod fill and natural sweetness at their best in March.

### DID YOU KNOW...

- In Spain they're traditionally eaten raw with olive oil, salt and Manchego cheese in spring.
- Very young beans can be eaten whole (pod and all).
- In some cultures, they are considered a symbol of good luck and prosperity.
- Used in dishes like Spanish habas con jamón and Middle Eastern falafel (made from dried fava beans in Egypt).
- Early season beans can be smaller but very tender.
- Later season beans become larger and starchier.
- Pod quality is key — bright green, firm, minimal marking.
- Shorter shelf life than peas, so quick turnover is important.

### KEY NUTRIENTS:

- Folate (Vitamin B9) – supports cell growth and energy production
- Vitamin C – immune support
- Iron – helps reduce tiredness
- Magnesium – muscle and nerve function
- Potassium – supports blood pressure regulation
- Naturally low fat
- High in plant protein
- High in fibre
- Suitable for vegetarian and plant-based diets





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