

# MARKET UPDATE 24 FEBRUARY 2020



## NEWS FLASH!

Due to the recent heavy deluge rain in QLD/NSW and in northern Victoria, the next few weeks will be a very big challenge across the board, with various lines of produce affected. Baby spinach, English spinach, rocket, coriander, dill and all herbs, Chinese herbs, and strawberries have been affected by Victorian and NSW rain.

The extreme weather has had a significant impact on our growers. Yield is way down, though we do have some good quality produce - we recommend you buy what you need as shelf life is short.

Also, all Chinese greens have all been affected by the heavy rainfall in NSW and VIC. Warning: prices have escalated, yield is way down and quality has been severely affected.

Expect to see an improvement in quantity towards the end of the week. Follow our updates on our social media pages. Please speak with your Select Fresh Providores rep for any info or substitute orders.

Local heirloom carrots have also been affected, with smaller sized produce, and leaves are damaged.

Oranges: supplies will start becoming an issue very shortly due to combined drought and severe heat related issues. Trees are weak through minimal water supply and the intense, consistent heat of December and January. This has resulted in fruit actually falling off, and not ready for use.

There has become an increased demand for oranges, especially from large juice companies. This is slowly pushing up the cost, and putting pressure on supply. We are acquiring fruit, and are carrying stock at the moment. We will keep you informed constantly.

Beans are extremely expensive, with yield way down and this has increased pricing dramatically - the best substitutes are broccolini and zucchini. There will be more produce lines that will be affected in the coming weeks.



## SPOTLIGHT



### **FRUIT:**

Mangosteens are back, pears Beurré Bosc, persimmons, apricot (NZ), pomelos (imported), rambutan, golden grapes, queen peaches, blood and sugar plums, fig leaf, prickly pears, yellow dragon fruit, honeycomb (half frames), kiwi berries, and yellow papaya are just in markets. Avocados this week: last of the Hass, moving onto Shepard's variety next week.

### **VEGETABLES:**

Black Russian tomatoes (slowly coming in) tomatillo, white eggplant, green tomato, celtuse, few purple cauliflower in markets, baby asparagus (check with your account manager), okra, yellow zucchini, parsley root (Mon/Wed/ Fri), lovage, lemon myrtle, Lebanese zucchini, kale (baby punnets), spaghetti squash, medley of zucchini pollen powder.

All organic blue and red corn, red pumpkin kuri, cucumber and sweet potato flower, hops, tarragon, Mexican, red vein dandelion (contact your account manager re this product).

**EXPENSIVE:****FRUIT:**

Marsh grapefruit (yellow), Italian kiwi fruit, lemons (local), green paw paw, topless pineapple.

**VEGETABLES:**

Sweet potatoes (expensive), green beans (have spiked again and are very, very expensive - prices are coming down using handpicked beans from Victoria; the best sub is zucchini and broccolini), green and red capsicums (expensive), ginger, green asparagus (Mexican, Thai), celeriac (very short supply, but produce is larger though still expensive), all Chinese vegetable, white whiflof, kumara/sweet potato (supply improving), ginger (yield way down, and very expensive), sugar snap, white Dutch carrots, pumpkin (peeled, Japanese, QLD blue - very expensive, all varieties), continental beans, iceberg lettuce (best substitute is cos), chestnut mushroom, gold radish, red jalapeno, jimica, kalamata olives, habenero chilli, salad tomatoes, Roma tomatoes and all varieties of tomatoes (best sub large truss).



Chinese standard peeled garlic has shot through the roof, due to no shipment coming into Australia: warning, there is a possibility that peeled garlic may end in few weeks.



**HARD TO FIND**

Green mango (Nth QLD), kohlrabi green and purple (not much around), kaffir limes (loose), spring onions, micro beetroot, oyster portobellos, shemji mushrooms, daikon radish, yellow butter beans, and large strawberries are hard to find and are very expensive, all medium sized at the moment.



## SEASON END

### FRUIT:

Cherry (TAS, at their peak, grab them now, last week), pink berries, dried muscatel (substitute with sultana grapes), pomegranate, blood apricots, KP mangoes done, Keith's are in, but are not amazing. Lychee and bulk mangoes have finished.



### VEGETABLES:

Jerusalem artichoke, white + purple asparagus, red Dutch carrots, red witlof, gourds), all globe artichokes, chokos, green cauliflower, cauliflower blossom not ready yet.



## BEST BUYS

### FRUIT:

Blueberries, honeydew melon, green pears, figs, rockmelon, limes, watermelon, red papaya, and nectarines (yellow and white), and peaches (great taste and value), red VIC flame grapes.



### **VEGETABLES:**

Long green chilli, shallots, eggplant, telegraph cucumber (better price than Lebanese), zucchini, parsnip, golf and truss tomatoes, snow peas, beet (large), green cabbage, savoy cabbage (SA), celery, chat potato, peas in 5kg cartons, WA Brussels sprouts, local corn, button mushrooms.



### **PETIT BOUCHE**

Please ensure that your petit bouche orders are placed Monday to Friday as stock on Saturdays is scarce and cannot be guaranteed due to NO market supply on Saturdays.

### **HERBS**

Lemon verbena, balm, and apple mint NA this week. Pandan leaf in short supply, thyme bunches (large, from VIC). Purple basil NA, betel leaf yield down, chervil, oregano in short supply and poor quality due to humidity.

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