Crop Report

September

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Welcome September

September brings the start of the autumn transition, with the summer season gradually winding down and a new range of British crops beginning to come through. It is normally an important changeover period for fresh produce, but this year the transition is being made more challenging by the continued impact of hot and dry weather.

Across the UK and Europe, prolonged heat, drought, water shortages and irrigation restrictions are continuing to affect growers and crops.





Some produce has been brought forward by the warm conditions, while other crops have struggled to develop normally, resulting in differences in size, quality and availability between growing areas.

As we move further into September, we expect these weather related challenges to continue influencing the market. While there is still plenty of excellent seasonal produce available, some key lines will require closer monitoring and careful planning over the coming weeks.

Crop Report

September

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Market Supply

Market conditions remain challenging across several key fresh produce lines. Continued heat, drought, water shortages and irrigation restrictions across the UK and Europe are affecting availability, quality and pricing.

Broccoli and cauliflower remain particularly tight, with heat stress affecting crop development and quality. Dutch tomatoes, potatoes and carrots are also experiencing pressure, while salads, lettuces, spinach, herbs and cresses continue to see reduced availability and shorter shelf life.





Tighter supply is putting upward pressure on prices across some lines, and conditions may remain changeable through September. Where possible, we recommend planning ahead and considering suitable alternatives for your menus.

We continue to work closely with our growers and suppliers to secure the best possible quality and availability and will keep you updated as the situation develops.

Crop Report

September

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Vegetables

Broccoli - Broccoli has been under pressure for some time, with current crops facing very poor growing conditions and significantly reduced volumes. Hot and dry weather continues to affect head weights and yields, while follow on crops have poor frames and are slow to develop. Quality remains inconsistent, with issues such as pheasant eye and hollow stems, and prices remain very high.

Cauliflowers - Cauliflower supply remains tight, with hot and dry conditions affecting crop development, sizing and quality. Our local growers have reported smaller heads and some discolouration due to the dry fields. We are monitoring supply closely and hope to see some improvement as temperatures cool.





Carrots - The British carrot season is now underway, but supply remains under pressure due to reduced planted areas, lower yields and ongoing water shortages. Quality is looking good, although tighter availability is keeping pricing firm.

Tenderstem Broccoli - Availability is currently good despite the recent high temperatures, although quality has been variable. Crops are gradually recovering, with progress differing between growing regions. We continue to carry out additional quality checks and work closely with growers to maintain supply as the market remains under pressure.

Crop Report

September

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Courgette - Local British courgettes remain in good quality despite the challenging weather. Depending on weather conditions, the UK season may come to an end this month, with Spanish early season crops ready to take over as British supply finishes.

Fresh Corn Cob - Sweetcorn is at its seasonal best, offering excellent flavour, quality and great value. A perfect summer favourite while peak season supplies continue.

Beans - French and runner beans are now in season, offering excellent quality, freshness and great value with good seasonal availability.



Aubergines - Aubergines are currently in strong supply, with excellent quality and good availability. Prices remain stable and affordable, making them a great-value choice for late summer menus.

Salad

Peppers - Dutch, Belgian and British pepper crops are now settling after a period of higher production. Prices have firmed slightly but remain steady across all colours, with quality continuing to be very good.



Tomatoes - Belgian and Dutch tomato availability is currently tighter following the challenging weather in June and July. Smaller fruit is expected, with smaller sized tomatoes available as an alternative where required.

Crop Report

September

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Potatoes - Reduced planting, lower yields and ongoing water shortages continue to put pressure on potato supply across the UK and Europe. The new crop has also been affected by the challenging weather, with smaller sizing and increased damage reported. Availability and pricing are expected to remain under pressure.

Cabbage and Kale - Cabbage and kale are now in good supply, although Savoy cabbage remains under pressure following the hot and dry summer. Local growers are reporting smaller sizing and some discolouration. We are monitoring the crop closely and hope cooler temperatures will bring some improvement.



Pumpkin and Squash - Seasonal varieties such as butternut squash and pumpkins are now becoming widely available, offering good quality and plenty of choice as we move into autumn.



Parsnips - With cooler weather approaching, British parsnips are coming into season, bringing their naturally sweet, earthy flavour and making them a perfect choice for autumn dishes.

Leeks - Leeks are now reaching their peak season, with good availability, quality and flavour. A versatile and reliable vegetable, they are a great addition to a wide range of autumn dishes.

Crop Report

September

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Lettuce, Salad & Herbs

Spinach - Spinach crops remain under pressure following the recent hot and dry weather, with lower yields, slower growth and some yellowing affecting quality. Availability remains tight, but we are hoping cooler weather will bring some improvement to the crop.

Lettuce, Salad & Leaves - UK-grown lettuce, salad leaves and leafy crops remain under pressure from the recent hot weather, affecting growth, quality and shelf life. Availability may remain challenging over the coming weeks, although cooler conditions should help. We recommend using products promptly after delivery and keeping them well chilled for the best quality.





Mix Leaf Salad - Recent hot and dry weather has put pressure on mixed salad leaf crops, accelerating maturity and affecting quality and shelf life. Availability remains challenging, with some variation in quality expected while growing conditions remain difficult. We are hoping cooler temperatures will help improve both availability and quality in the coming weeks.

Herbs & Cresses - Supply remains stable, although hot weather continues to affect delicate herbs and micro cresses, impacting freshness and shelf life. Store well chilled and use promptly after delivery for the best quality.

Crop Report

September

a.b.fruits
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Fruits

Strawberries - British strawberries are still thriving, with good availability, excellent quality and great flavour. Warm weather has helped support strong volumes, keeping the crop in good shape as the season continues.

Blueberries - The British blueberry season is progressing well, with volumes continuing to build and excellent quality across the crop. Availability remains good, with no major issues expected.

Melons - Watermelons, cantaloupes, honeydews and galia melons are in strong supply, with Spanish and Italian imports offering excellent quality, good availability and competitive pricing.





Pears - Early season Conference pears are now plentiful, with excellent texture, natural sweetness and consistent quality.

Blackberries - The British blackberry season continues to perform well, with good availability and excellent quality. Dutch blackberries are also helping to support supply, with no major issues expected.

Figs - Both black and green figs are performing well thanks to favourable growing conditions, with excellent quality, good availability and great flavour expected throughout the season.

Crop Report

September

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We remain positive about the outlook and will continue to monitor developments and provide updates in due course. Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this report, please do not hesitate to contact our team.



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