

# Crop Report

Wednesday 30th April to Wednesday 7th May

Get the insight you need to plan more effectively and manage your menus with our latest report from the field, brought to you by our expert produce team. **Speak to your Roots Account Manager for further information**

## Power cuts in Europe

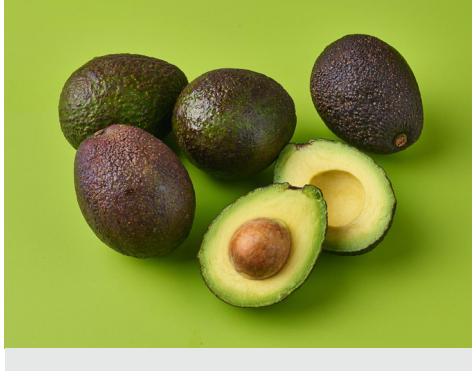


We are aware of the significant power outages across Spain and Portugal, which are important growing areas for us at this time of year.

The outages affected product loading for dispatch from a small number of our growers on 28 April. While there are likely to be some delays to produce from Spain generally, we are fortunate to have our own dedicated logistics solution, so have made contingency plans to speed up deliveries.

We are maintaining very close contact with our Spanish suppliers and haulier and are confident the steps we are taking, including doubling up on drivers to speed deliveries, will minimise any potential delays.

## Avocados



As we have been reporting, this is a challenging part of the year with market availability currently restricted as we transition between the Northern and Southern Hemispheres across April and May.

We continue to manage limited supply well and are starting to use more Southern Hemisphere fruit as we are beginning to see some end of season quality issues.

A size concession is in place for smaller size, although we do not expect this to have a major impact on availability.

We will continue to monitor the situation carefully over the coming weeks and provide updates as necessary. We expect better market availability in the near future.

## Brassica update



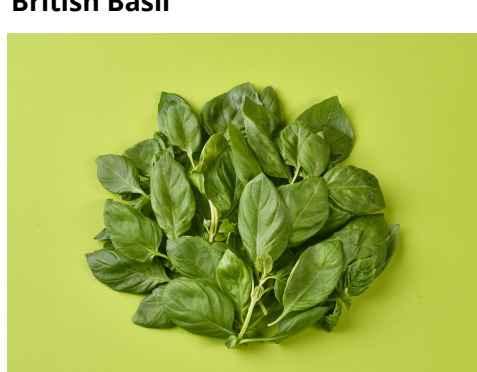
Plans for the transition to the UK season remain on track and we expect this to begin around the end of May to mid-June. The current weather conditions are helping to bring the crop along nicely.

In the meantime, we are now into stored crop for savoy cabbage and, as is normal for the time of year, sizes are smaller. We therefore have a concession in place for 5kg and individual savoy cabbages.

Quality is generally satisfactory, although we have seen the occasional ad hoc quality issue with some Spanish brassicas following the weather earlier in the season. However, we have been working with suppliers and have managed to minimise the impact on customers.

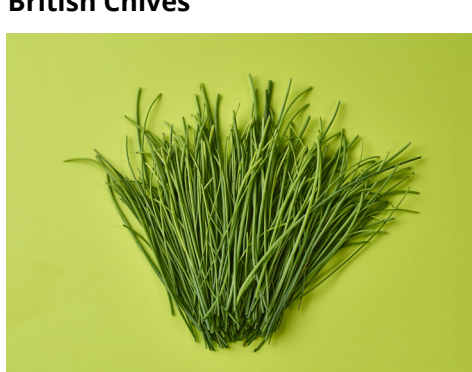
Other brassicas including kale, spring greens, cabbage and British cauliflower are all performing well, with good availability and quality.

## British Basil



There has been market disruption on British basil, due to the demise of a large vertical grower which went into administration. As a result, we had not expected to see any British basil until around the middle of May. However, we now expect to see some early season product from the end of this week, albeit the main crop will be a couple of weeks behind that.

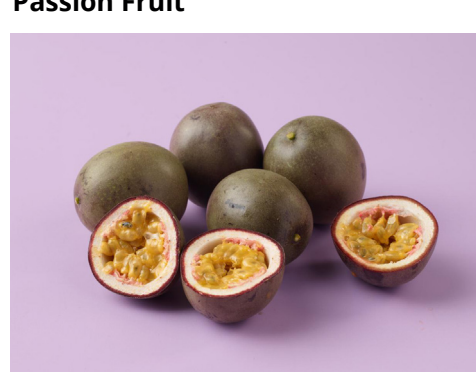
## British Chives



There are ongoing issues with vertically farmed chives, which will mean a lack of British-produced product for a short period until the beginning of June, when the traditional season starts.

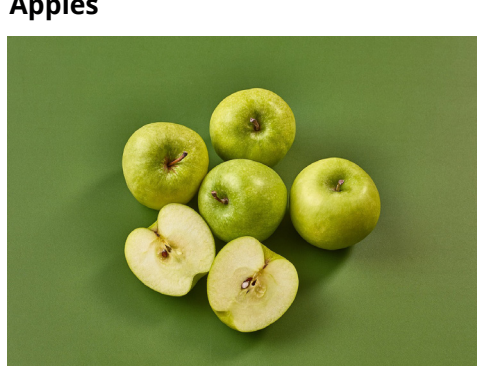
Moroccan produce will be available until then.

## Passion Fruit



Storms and heavy rain in Colombia have led to the destruction of a significant part of the crop. This means that we will have to rely on produce that is air-freighted from Kenya for the next six weeks.

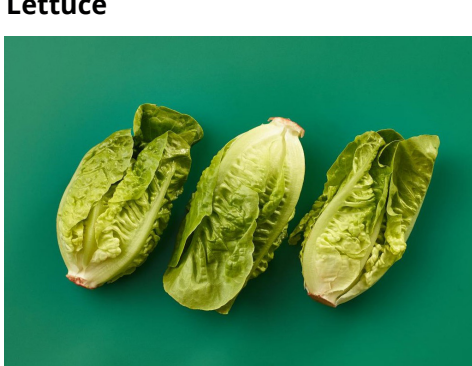
## Apples



We are expecting the first Brazilian red apples of the season this week, which should help address some of the challenging end of season Northern Hemisphere availability that we've seen.

We expect the transition for green apples to follow in mid-May, which should bring an end to the recent problems.

## Lettuce

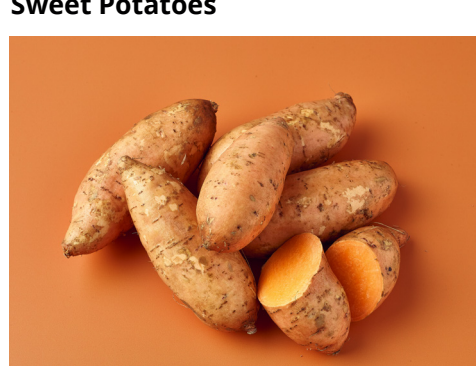


Lettuce supply from Spain is becoming more robust following the recent challenges, albeit there are still some quality issues.

We have already received our first delivery of British Little Gem, which will increase as availability of the homegrown crop improves, and this will shortly be followed by other varieties.

By mid-May, all whole-head lettuce will be British, which should fully resolve any remaining issues.

## Sweet Potatoes



We are expecting the poor American harvest, which is around 40% down on a standard year, to have some impact on the market shortly.

There is better news from other origins, with Argentina in particular looking more positive than had previously been expected. We will continue to work with suppliers to try to mitigate the issues, for example looking at increasing supply from other origins.

## Carrots



We are approaching the end of the British carrot season and, while availability remains plentiful, there are some quality issues.

We are advising customers to keep carrots stored at as low a temperature as possible, which will help to maintain shelf-life.

## CauliShoots®



We are expecting the British season to start in June. Longer term, our growing partner has decided to stop growing CauliShoots® after the summer season. We continue to investigate alternative options.

## Parsnips



We are approaching the end of the British parsnip season. We will transition to Spain in mid-May, and the seasons are currently lining up well.

We are maintaining a close watch on the Spanish crop, as there may be some problems caused by the heavy rains during the growing period.

## Berries



As we approach the end of the Spanish and Moroccan seasons, we are seeing some quality issues with berries. While it is not affecting availability, the heat-related quality issues are causing some softness particularly with strawberries and raspberries.

Working with our suppliers, we have introduced additional checks and procedures throughout the chain, including packing and dispatching on the same day, which should help minimise the problems.

The good weather that we are enjoying is helping to bring the UK crop on, and we expect to start the transition to the UK in the next couple of weeks.

## Lemons



There have been some very challenging market supply issues for lemons and our procurement team has worked hard with our suppliers to avoid any major supply issues.

We are now also facing delays to the core South African season, due to some heavy rains and severe flooding.

However, we have been building stocks, including loading some additional fruit, which should help us to navigate the challenging end of season. It is likely to be a very difficult period from the middle of May to the beginning of June and concessions may be required to help maintain availability.

## Melons



This week will see the last arrivals from Central America as the poor weather conditions in the region dictate that we need to navigate an early transition to the Almeria region in Spain.

We are now in the most difficult part of the year and are seeing shortages on some product lines. Large honeydew melons are a problem, but there is some availability of the medium size which can be used instead. Of greater concern is the cantaloupe variety, where there is no obvious substitute and will have intermittent availability while we await the first deliveries from Almeria, which is currently scheduled for early next week.

We are expecting additional problems as we transition to the main Spanish crop in around eight weeks' time and will be maintaining a close watching brief on this. We will provide further updates as the season progresses.

## Asparagus



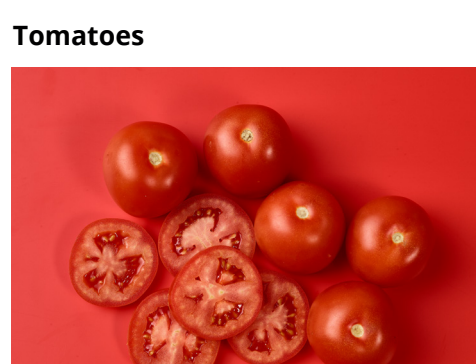
The British asparagus season is now in full flow and the crop is plentiful. British asparagus will be available until around 21 June.

## Peppers



We have now moved the majority of our pepper supply to Holland, which should alleviate many of the quality and availability problems that we've seen in recent weeks. There may be some backward colour on the produce while we move into the new season.

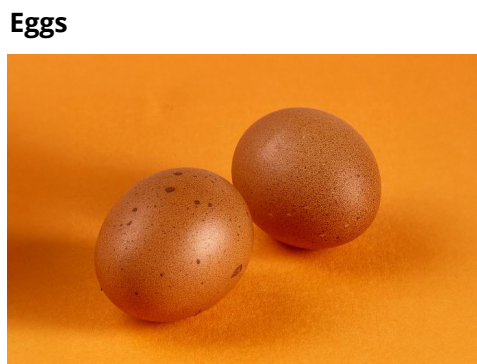
## Tomatoes



There are some ongoing quality issues with the colour of Spanish Canary Islands and Moroccan tomatoes as we approach the end of the season. Both of these origins will be finished by the end of this week.

This will be replaced by Dutch crop starting this week, which should see an uplift in quality. Dutch supply will be supported by some mainland Spanish produce.

## Eggs



While Avian Influenza remains a threat, the number of cases has continued to decline in line with the warmer weather.

Housing Orders remain in place across several high-risk regions of the country, and producers continue to use enhanced biosecurity measures, such as no watering on the range, control of visitors and enhanced disinfection to minimise the risk to their birds.