

Weekly Market Report

Our Fresh Produce Brothers **Specials** for Thursday and Friday of this week are:

- **Watermelon**
- **Red & Green Capsicums**
- **Red Flame Seedless Grapes**
- **Continental Cucumbers**
- **Rockmelon**
- **Iceberg Lettuce, 12 Count**



The Metcash/IGA Late Week Specials this week are **apricots** and **200g punnets of mushrooms**, both cup and sliced.

Please see our separate specials page or contact us for further details.

Countdown till Christmas

As I write this there are 16 sleeps till Christmas! That is exciting although we have a few things to get done before then!

International lemon travel continues

Lemons have reduced in price over the last few weeks although to be fair they are still quite expensive. At present we are only offering the US imports: this is for two reasons. First, the quality of the local product is average to poor and despite the quality issues, it is still quite expensive. Second, the consistency of supply of the Egyptian product is poor at present. We know it is frustrating for it to go back and forth between being available and unavailable, so until we can be assured of regular supply of quality product, we will hold off making it available. As noted, unfortunately the US ones are not cheap, but they are very good quality.

Strawberries in heat

My apologies to some of our clients who got caught with the poor-quality strawberries late last week and early this week. Particularly when we are

experiencing hot weather, we try very hard to minimise their exposure to the heat. We have re-emphasised the need for quality with our growers and also further reviewed our processes on the warehouse floor, including maximising the time they are in the cool room and checking and rechecking the quality.

Sun damage?

In that vein, this week's weather has not been kind, particularly in Perth. We have not received any reports from our growers yet, but we could assume there might be some sun damage in a few weeks. We will keep an eye out for impacted product over the next few weeks.

An apple a day

2020 continues to be the Year of the Apple Farmer in terms of price! The price on nearly all premium grades has risen over the last fortnight with the only upside being that they are very nice quality. The increase in price is also impacting the bagging apple variants which are both expensive and hard to get. As a cheaper alternative, our store clients may want to offer 1kg bagging peaches or nectarines? We are offering them as loose tubs or lovingly pre-packed by our team.

Goodbye mandarins... just kidding!

Mandarins are back! After a few weeks without supply, we can now access the Ortanique variant which we had about a month ago. They were very popular when we had them previously so please get your orders in.

Personally tasted melons

In view of their popularity at this time of year and the fact that we have good supply, we are offering both watermelon and rockmelons on Special this week. We have selected the watermelons from a particular Carnarvon grower as it tasted beautiful this morning when we were in the markets.

Unfortunately, their cousin, the honeydew melon is impossible to buy at present. We will watch for it and let you know as soon as it is available.

Cheery cherries

The Cherries are beautiful at present. We have a mix of WA and SA fruit available in 1, 2 and 5kg boxes and the quality and size are really good.

Lychees for Christmas

Another fruit that is clearly linked with Christmas (at least in Australia), Lychees, are also now available. We had several boxes go out this week and my own quality control can vouch that they are lovely!

Tomatoes

The ever-popular tomatoes are plentiful and excellent quality at present. The quality of the No. 1 and Medium tomatoes are very good, as are the loose truss. We had a very large number of the loose truss trays go out yesterday and all the feedback thus far has been super positive.

Christmas season hours

I know we have put this out separately but a reminder that our opening days over the Christmas/New Year period are very much aligned to the Market opening days. We will work with all of you to understand your requirements so that we can ensure your efficient supply over this critical period. Please be sure to let us know if you have any special requirements for drop offs etc.

Warm regards,

Damian

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