

April / May 2019

## FRESH

### FRUIT

Apples are now in season and most fruit is being picked and supplied fresh. It is currently Pink Lady picking season as most of the Galas and Fujis have been picked. By end of April all picking should be finished and apples will come from storage for the rest of the year. New season pears have now begun. Banana prices have skyrocketed and are remaining high. Cyclones and extreme weather meant banana peak season did not occur. Australian grapes are now available and prices have dropped. Good supply and quality is anticipated for April and May. Kiwi fruits are now scarce and are being sourced from Italy. Shortages in all citrus will start to ease with the record high prices. Shortages of lemons and oranges are being topped up with supply from the United States and Egypt. Stone fruits including plums, peaches and nectarines have had a great run and will slowly drop off in supply during April. All melons including long and seedless honey dew are now flowing in from Northern Queensland and New South Wales with great quality and supply. Paw paw, papaya, pineapples and exotics, such as lychees and dragon fruit, will all be available shortly.

### VEGETABLES

Avocados are now the Shepard variety and will be for the next two months. Shepard avocados have a greener smooth skin and do not turn black when ripe

unlike the Hass variety. They have a more buttery flesh and are abundant this time of year. Tomatoes are another casualty of the extreme weather with supply being affected. In March there were record prices for tomatoes which should start to decrease in April. Asparagus are in short supply but there is some local supply. All beans, brussel sprouts, broccoli, cauliflower, capsicum, cabbage carrots and celery have been in short supply but that is predicted to change in April and they will be good quality and supply. Cucumbers and lettuce may be effected by the extreme weather and will continue to be short as we rely on Queensland supply. Australian garlic will now be available, although it is quite expensive. Potatoes, onions and eggplants are all consistent. Celery and cauliflower has seen some recent shortages and record prices which should drop in the coming weeks. There is a good supply of buttons, flats and all exotic mushrooms and pricing is inexpensive.

### HERBS AND LOOSE LEAVES

Herbs are mostly back online as the warmer weather allows for better quality leaves to thrive. All loose leaf spinach, rocket and mesclun are stable. Although, these are the most susceptible to extreme temperatures so if extreme heat occurs they will be the first to be effected.