

Introduction: Our market bulletin helps inform vendors, farmers and consumers of the types of fresh produce grown and sold for the month by its unit, price and total quantity in \$NZ. For further information, contact Ministry of Agriculture (Corporate Services) on phone number 28711 or email us at moa.support@cookislands.gov.ck

Root Crops Sales:

Taro and Maniota are the two most constant root crops that has been sold at the Punanga Nui market with an average selling price of \$5/kg and \$4/kg respectively. Similar to the previous month, Tarua and Kumara were the other root crops supplied to the market for consumers. Although these crops have been constantly supplied to the market due to being lucrative and always in demand, a decrease in the supply of taro and kumara was noted for this month. This was due to the fact that the farmers opted to bring less stock for sale as the market was opened on limited days because of the restrictions in place for COVID-19. Therefore, they would rather leave these root crops in plantations rather than uprooting it, which might not be sold. On the other hand, an 36% increase in the supply of Maniota and triple supply of Tarua was noted this month when compared to February 2020. More farmers supplying these crops resulted in the increase.

Root Crops	March 2020				February 2020	
	No of Vendors	Average Price (\$NZ) per Kg	Total Weight (Kg)	Total Value (\$NZ)	No of Vendors	Total Weight (Kg)
Taro	10	5.00	353.0	1,765.00	10	412.4
Maniota	9	4.00	319.0	1,276.00	7	233.6
Tarua	3	3.00	69.5	208.50	2	21.5
Kumara	1	5.00	12.0	60.00	3	64.6

Data source: Ministry of Agriculture, AgINTEL

Fruit Sales:

Drinking Nuts, banana and pawpaw continues to be the most widely sold fruits at the market. A significant decrease in the supply of all fruits apart from dragon fruit and avocado was noted this month. This was primarily due to the restrictions enforced by the Covid-19 pandemic therefore, less tourists on the island to buy these fruits on the market. As we are heading to the peak season for dragon fruits and avocados, an increase in the supply of these two fruits were noted this month by 65% and 14% respectively. Other fruits harvested and captured in this month's market survey are watermelon, lime, chestnut, corn, passionfruit, pineapple, okra, starfruit, capsicum, orange and breadfruit. A surge in the supply of fruits is anticipated as we are nearing to the cooler months.

Fruits	March 2020				February 2020	
	No of Vendors	Average Price (\$NZ) per Kg	Total Weight (Kg)	Total Value (\$NZ)	No of Vendors	Total Weight (Kg)
Drinking Nut	18	2.19	740.7	1,622.13	19	1,022.2
Banana	14	6.60	349.4	2,306.04	19	416.4
Pawpaw	8	10.94	323.0	3,533.62	11	546.7
Cucumber	8	4.07	255.9	1,041.51	5	344.1
Dragonfruit	3	3.87	247.5	957.83	6	149.3
Avocado	8	6.00	143.1	858.60	7	124.7
Lemon	7	4.41	64.3	283.56	5	85.7
Eggplant	3	9.95	38.3	381.09	2	57.96
Beans	2	7.40	35.8	264.92	5	50.74
Bitter Melon	1	4.17	25.6	106.75	1	59.1

Data source: Ministry of Agriculture, AgINTEL

Vegetable Sales:

Only three types of vegetables were supplied to the market in the last two months. Rukau, a favorite local delicacy continues to be sold at the market at \$10/kg. An increase in the supply of lettuce by 55% was noted at the market, this is relatively due to an increase in the number of vendors supplying this vegetable to the market as the restaurants and hotels are mostly closed due COVID 19. The supply of Pak Choy remains consistent in the market and is sold at \$5.90/kg.

Vegetables	March 2020				February 2020	
	No of Vendors	Average Price (\$NZ) per Kg	Total Weight (Kg)	Total Value (\$NZ)	No of Vendors	Total Weight (Kg)
Rukau	7	10.02	96.7	968.97	8	91.3
Lettuce	4	9.17	37.4	342.83	1	24.0
Pak Choy	1	5.90	10.4	61.39	1	10.0

Data source: Ministry of Agriculture, AgINTEL