

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 NZD\$. 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

Maniota, Taro and Kumara continues to be the most consistently supplied root crop on the market. But compared to the previous month, there was a decline in the supply of Taro by 41%, Maniota by 31% and Kumara by 18%. Tarua is another root crop that was supplied to the market this month by a single vendor. Although, this crop is high in demand, most farmers tend to dislike planting them due to the difficulty in clearing the land after the harvest.

| March 2021 | | | | | February 2021 | |
|------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Root Crops | No of Vendors | Total Weight (Kg) | Average Price (\$NZ) per Kg | Total Value (\$NZ) | No of Vendors | Total Weight (Kg) |
| Taro | 12 | 247.5 | 3.00 | 742.50 | 9 | 417.2 |
| Maniota | 11 | 240.4 | 3.50 | 841.40 | 9 | 350.5 |
| Kumara | 4 | 175.7 | 4.70 | 825.79 | 3 | 214.5 |
| Tarua | 1 | 60.7 | 3.60 | 218.52 | | |

Data source: Ministry of Agriculture, AgINTEL

Fruit Sales

Similar to last month, Watermelon was the most supplied fruit to the market with a total of over two thousand seven hundred kilograms sold. Farmers are selling the last remaining fruits of the harvest as we are heading to off-peak season.

An increase in the supply of fruits like Drinking Nut, Cucumber, Avocado, Mangoes, Eggplants and Pumpkin was noted for this month.

Warmer weather conditions, peak season for tropical fruits are attributed to the increased supply.

Tomatoes, capsicum and lemon had a reduced supply this month but it is encouraging to note that some farmers are diversifying into new fruits like Bitter Melon to meet the customer demand. Other fruits that were supplied to the market in minimal quantities were Sweet Corn, Hog Plum, Starfruit and Passionfruit.

| March 2021 | | | | | February 2021 | |
|--------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Fruits | No of Vendors | Total Weight (Kg) | Average Price (\$NZ) per Kg | Total Value (\$NZ) | No of Vendors | Total Weight (Kg) |
| Watermelon | 9 | 2,714.7 | 2.50 | 6,786.65 | 7 | 6,159.4 |
| Cucumber | 10 | 1,354.2 | 2.00 | 2,708.40 | 6 | 1,065.3 |
| Drinking Nut | 26 | 1,115.9 | 3.20 | 3,570.88 | 22 | 1,104.1 |
| Banana | 24 | 743.7 | 3.20 | 2,379.84 | 19 | 592.6 |
| Pawpaw | 10 | 575.5 | 2.00 | 1,151.00 | 11 | 730.3 |
| Tomatoes | 5 | 546.5 | 2.80 | 1,530.20 | 4 | 577.3 |
| Mangoes | 15 | 426.7 | 4.00 | 1,706.80 | 2 | 32.0 |
| Avocado | 17 | 408.4 | 3.80 | 1,551.92 | 12 | 337.4 |
| Eggplant | 2 | 308.9 | 3.00 | 926.70 | 7 | 287.0 |
| Dragonfruit | 5 | 295.0 | 5.00 | 1,475.00 | 6 | 639.3 |
| Capsicum | 4 | 274.3 | 3.60 | 987.48 | 3 | 315.0 |
| Lemon | 15 | 206.5 | 3.70 | 764.05 | 12 | 250.8 |
| Beans | 5 | 156.2 | 4.80 | 749.76 | 3 | 150.7 |
| Pumpkin | 4 | 139.1 | 3.90 | 542.49 | 4 | 76.7 |
| Bitter Melon | 1 | 116.4 | 3.70 | 430.68 | 1 | 181.2 |

Data source: Ministry of Agriculture, AgINTEL

Vegetable Sales

Rukau, Watercress, Lettuce, Pak Choi and Spinach continues to be constantly supplied to the market from the beginning of this year but at a reduced quantity. Silver Beet for the first time was another vegetable that was supplied to the market. Since this vegetable is unpopular with locals and is vulnerable to pests and insect's, farmers tend to grow this in minimal quantities.

| March 2021 | | | | | February 2021 | |
|------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Vegetables | No of Vendors | Total Weight (Kg) | Average Price (\$NZ) per Kg | Total Value (\$NZ) | No of Vendors | Total Weight (Kg) |
| Rukau | 7 | 190.1 | 8.50 | 1,615.85 | 14 | 193.5 |
| Watercress | 2 | 59.3 | 9.50 | 563.35 | 1 | 61.6 |
| Pak Choi | 4 | 16.2 | 5.90 | 95.58 | 1 | 17.0 |
| Silverbeet | 1 | 14.0 | 7.10 | 99.40 | | |
| Lettuce | 1 | 4.8 | 10.00 | 48.00 | 1 | 6.0 |
| Spinach | 1 | 3.5 | 7.10 | 24.85 | 1 | 1.0 |

Data source: Ministry of Agriculture, AgINTEL