



Cherry update: 8 October 2014

See latest videos of the crop at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZQZFhSocOuU_Kv5AYjNdIg

Weather:

No real rain to report thus far. The season is now getting late. No significant rain is [predicted for the coming week. Over the weekend the nights will go cold again.

The intensive orchards in the Free State have a disappointing crop from reports I am receiving from the farmers. It seems as though the same crop a slat year will ne harvested – around 70 tons. The old open orchard farmers seem to have a better crop. These cherries are however mostly of less quality.

The local market should stay strong in view of the undersupply of cherries I am expecting.

Highlands

Mini Royal and Royal Lee : (expected sizing – 24 / 25 mm)

The few Royal Lee that survived the frost are now red. I believe these will be harvested from the 20th at Brix > 20 %. The sizing is already good.

RL on 14 Oct 2010





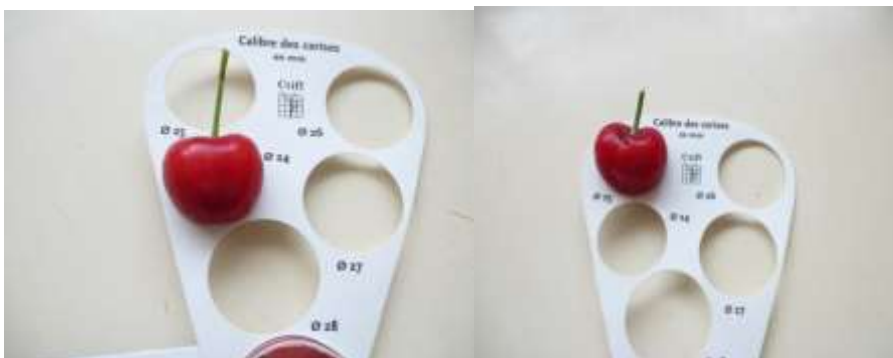
RL on 6 Oct 2014:



We are clearly a bit late due to the crop from the later flowers post frost. There will however be very few kg's .

Early Sweet

The early sweet is already 24 / 25 mm and at brix of 13.5 – 14 %. Harvest will commence next Monday as well.



Royal dawn : expected sizing(25/26 mm)

These are colouring fast at Crimson. Highlands will be slightly later than normal – once again due to fruit from later flowers after the frost. Crimson seems to ahead of time.

Expected harvest date – from 25 Oct onwards.



Cashmere (expected sizing 25 / 26 mm)

Fruitset at Highlands and Crimson is looking very good under the tunnels. The small crop at Hiddendale is also progressing nicely.

The fruit are now straw colour and sizing up beautifully. Expected to harvest from around 30 Oct.



Bings/ Lapins (expected sizing 25/26mm)

These are progressing well and first colouring is starting to appear. Still expected to commence harvest in the first few days of November for the Bing and the Lapins from the 10th of November onwards.

Rainier (expected sizing 56/26mm)

I am expecting about 1 ton of Rainier and 600 kg's suitable for export. These have also been thinned to ensure good sizing. Expected first harvest in first few days of November.

We are putting on the first GA spray tomorrow. We will be doing 4 -5 small dosage sprays to increase firmness.

Harvest and Delivery:



Newest export crop estimate:

The pack house extension will be completed by this Friday. Crop estimate unchanged.