

—— What fruit does the market want? ——

This section describes the type and condition of fruit which is demanded by the buyers in the market. The specifications, which change over time, are those required at receipt by importer, unless otherwise stated.



Avocados

Varieties:	Most popular - Hass, Fuerte Others acceptable - Ettinger, Nabal, Edrinol Less popular - Lula, Pollock (too large)
Size:	150-400 grams, with 270-330 grams being most popular. Size requirements vary for different markets and accurate size grading is essential. UN/ECE standards stipulate that the minimum weight should not be less than 125 grams and buyers prefer weight to be guaranteed over the minimum
Shape:	Pear shape, with no large, loose stones. If a stalk is present, it must be less than 10mm and cut cleanly. Uniformity of shape is important
Colour:	Bright green, typified by Fuerte, though Hass, which turns a deep purple/black, is acceptable in the UK and is reported to have a longer shelf life than other varieties
Ripeness:	Firm, slightly unripe, no bruising or disfigurement. Long shelf life more important for wholesale market than for supermarket trade, which sometimes ripens fruit centrally for consistency
Taste & Texture:	Smooth, creamy, no fibre, no bitterness

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Mangoes

Varieties: Most popular - Tommy Atkins, Haden, Keitt and Kent

Others acceptable - Alphonso, Amelie, Apple, Graham, Irwin, Sensation and Zill

Less popular - Boribo, Dashehari, Julie, Langra, Ngowe, Peach and Ruby

Size: 225-400 grams, with accurate size grading essential

Shape: Oval

Colour: Some colour visible (yellow or red depending on variety). Red blush very popular

Ripeness: Fully mature but firm, no bruising or disfigurement

Taste & Texture: No fibrous tissue, no turpentine flavour, easy stone removal and fragrant

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Pineapples

Varieties:	Most popular - Smooth Cayenne Others acceptable - Queen and Red Spanish Less popular - Abacaxis and Sugar Loaf
Size:	1-2 kg with accurate size grading essential Grade A - over 1.5 kg - fruit achieves a premium Grade B - 1.1-1.5 kg Grade C - 0.9-1.1 kg Grade D - below 0.9 kg - least in demand Supermarkets have further range of bands within these grades
Shape:	Oval, with firm, green leaves at crown
Colour:	Deep yellow or copper orange, green fruit still being associated with unripeness, though becoming more acceptable. Bright green crown
Ripeness:	Two-thirds coloured preferred, to allow for ripening during distribution
Taste & Texture:	Sweetness important, non-acidic flavour, not too fibrous, but firm flesh

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Papayas

Varieties:	Most popular - Solo Others acceptable - Amazon Red
Size:	250-500 grams
Shape:	Oval
Colour:	Yellow, orange or red
Ripeness:	Firm to touch, element of colour
Taste & Texture:	Firm, sweet and juicy

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Passion fruit

Varieties:	Most popular - purple variety Others acceptable - yellow variety, but Grenadilla more successful than Maracouya, which is not consistently sweet.
Size:	45-59 grams, 45-50 mm diameter, uniform grading important
Shape:	Oval, sometimes round
Colour:	Purple preferred, yellow acceptable
Ripeness:	Skin not too wrinkled or dimpled
Taste & Texture:	Juicy