Week 28 Fruit Wholesale Market Report

South African sweet oranges enter the market, while Spanish cherries make their debut

This week saw fresh arrivals of citrus from South Africa and Australia, including South African sweet oranges, Australian blood oranges, and South African ClemenGold mandarins. In the imported cherry category, small batches of Spanish cherries have joined the market alongside American cherries. Meanwhile, prices for Philippine pineapples and Chinese blueberries have increased due to reduced supply.

South African sweet oranges have recently entered the market, selling for approximately ¥160-200 (US$22-28) per box, depending on quality. According to traders, the season is still in its early stages, and the quality of the arriving fruit has yet to stabilize, keeping prices relatively low. Prices are expected to adjust as the season progresses. South African blood orange prices remained unchanged from last week. Size #55 has proven particularly popular due to its juiciness and smooth peel, with prices around ¥270 (US$38) per box. Traders expect the quality of subsequent arrivals to improve gradually.

Left: South African sweet oranges; Right: Australian blood oranges

The market for Australian sweet oranges is largely unchanged from last week. Traders reported that fruit quality remains stable, while sweetness continues to improve as the season progresses. Australian blood oranges have also entered the market. Premium-quality batches command higher prices, although supplies of top-grade fruit are currently limited.

South African lemons are selling for approximately ¥170-240 (US$24-33) per box. Traders noted that prices are lower than during the same period last year, mainly because supplies from the producing regions are less constrained. In addition, the availability of lower-priced Yunnan lemons has also put downward pressure on the market. Traders added that buyers generally prefer batches priced above ¥200 (US$28) per box, as they offer better juice content and stronger aroma.

Left: South African lemons; Right: Shandong blueberries

In the imported cherry market, fruit from China, the United States, and Spain is currently available. Chinese cherries, packed in a 2-in-1 format (4-5 kg), are selling for approximately ¥100-120 (US$14-17) per box and are attracting buyers with their competitive pricing. Washington cherries from the United States are selling for ¥450-500 (US$63-70) per box, slightly lower than last week, although traders expect prices to strengthen as arrivals continue to decline. A small shipment of Spanish cherries has also arrived. Packed in 2-kg cartons, the fruit is selling for around ¥160 (US$22) per box. The variety is Sofia, available in sizes 30+ and 32+. Some batches have minor cosmetic defects. According to traders, sales have been relatively slow, as both American and Chinese cherries are still widely available and the Spanish fruit has only recently entered the market.

Left: Spanish cherries; Right: Chinese cherries

Philippine Golden pineapples recorded a price increase of around 10%-15% this week due to lower arrival volumes. They are currently selling for approximately ¥170-190 (US$24-27) per box. Traders reported that fruit quality remains stable, with prices broadly in line with the same period last year.

Chinese blueberries, mainly from Shandong, have also experienced lower supply this week, resulting in higher prices. Blueberries measuring 15 mm+ are selling for approximately ¥65-70 (US$9-10) per box, while 18 mm+ fruit is priced at around ¥80-85 (US$11-12) per box. Prices for the 15 mm+ size have increased more sharply, reflecting stronger buyer demand for this grade.

Left: Philippine pineapples; Right: Vietnamese Monthong durians

Regarding imported durians, supplies of Vietnamese fruit continue to increase, while arrivals of Thai Monthong durians are gradually declining. Thai Monthong A6 durians are commonly selling for around ¥520-550 (US$73-77) per box. Vietnamese Monthong A6 durians are priced at a similar level. A small quantity of Cambodian Monthong durians is also available, with A6 fruit selling for approximately ¥650 (US$91) per box.

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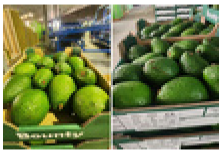

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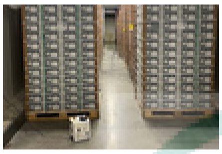

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