

Britain's favourite fresh produce magazine since 1895



By Ed Leahy

Wednesday 11th April 2018, 8:52 GMT

"Super ships" causing banana backlog



New infrastructure like larger ships and containers have created a backlog in banana supply

Banana prices remain high thanks to flooding in Central America and fresh produce having to adapt to new logistics

New "super ships", container issues and torrential Central American weather last year are still inflating banana prices, according to wholesalers.

Slow filling large containers storing thousands of items, coupled with larger ships that can't dock with older ports, have conspired to create a backlog in bananas grown in the Central American region.

According to Richard Hickson, managing director of Premier Fruits, the old method was quicker, albeit more expensive.

"Shipping has been a problem. They have changed from underdeck storage to large containers, which has created a backlog in the produce," Hickson said.

"The larger containers are cheaper as they have thousands and thousands of items, but it just creates a backlog. These new super ships are also different, they're so massive only a few ports that can take them. It will get better though with lots of new ports, like Dover creating new berths."

Hickson said that weather in the region is often a problem, but hurricane damage can take a long time to recover from.

"It's only affected dollar fruit, places like Panama, Honduras Costa Rica, We find it like this every year, but damage from the hurricanes takes years to replenish. We can expect to see a growth in ACP (Africa, Caribbean, Pacific) fruits on the shelves," Hickson added.

Jason Tanner, Premier Fruits chairman, said: "Bananas rarely go over £15 per box, but now they have gone up to £18, £19 because the fruit has been so short."

<http://www.fruitnet.com/americafruit/article/1474/parts-of-san-diego-quarantined-as-psyllid-count-mounts>

© Copyright Market Intelligence Ltd - Fruitnet.com 2014. The copyright on this article and all content published on Market Intelligence Ltd - Fruitnet.com is held by Market Intelligence Ltd - Fruitnet.com Limited, a joint venture between Market Intelligence Limited and Dr Rolf M Wolf Media GmbH. All rights reserved. Neither this article nor any part of it may be reproduced, stored or transmitted in any form, including print-outs, screen grabs and information retrieval systems, without the prior permission of the copyright owners.

FRUITNET.COM