

SMITH & BROCK



EXPERTLY SELECTED, PROUDLY DELIVERED

WEEKLY PRODUCT UPDATE - 01/04/19

Farm Trip to Westlands Nurseries!



Firstly - thank you to everyone who braved the crisp, early start and made the trip North West out of London, through the Cotswolds and in to Evesham.

To understand the what, why and how all the wonderful micro-leaf herbs, growing cresses, edible flowers and taste of the sea, to name but a few, are made was truly insightful.

It was great to witness the technology involved that allows for automation – increasing the consistency in quality of finished product and improving sustainability with recycled water use

in both the watering of the herbs and heating processes.

I think can say on behalf of everyone that the tasting of the many products on offer definitely stimulated the tip of the tongue and some.

Lastly, a big thankyou to Westlands for your time and effort throughout the day. Until the next time – for those who joined us and those who unfortunately couldn't, you will all be welcome on the next Smith and Brock coach out of London and in to the home of another wonderful UK grower.

SMITH & BROCK WEEKLY REPORT #69

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“We’re constantly challenging ourselves to develop new products and discover more sustainable ways of growing, using the latest technologies. We are always looking for ways to expand and evolve our ranges of Micro Leaf, Edible Flowers and other speciality produce; so you can continue to surprise and delight your customers. At Westlands, we’re truly passionate about what we do.”



SPRING

What a wonderful time of year! We all get excited about Spring produce and rightfully so, however, we must be patient as we are still early in the season - we have a couple more weeks until English Asparagus comes into full swing and although peas and broads beans are available, they are not yet from UK and I would give them a couple more weeks. UK berries, weather permitting will start at the end of April/ Beginning of May.

Jersey Royals have started, indoor crop has been harvested and the outdoor crop will be harvested from next week. As you may know there is nothing like a Jersey Royal - they have been growing since 1878 and have PDO (protected destination of origin) status. Their season will run until late June, possibly into July. Purple Sprouting Broccoli is in fantastic condition and very well priced. We have also had some white sprouting in stock, however this is a product that requires perfect weather conditions, not too hot and not too cold to be at its best. Turkish Morels have been great this week. Pre order for volumes - they are selling fast! Rhubarb is mostly outdoor now (green with a red tint). Some indoor (the bright pink stems) are about, but very limited. Outdoor Rhubarb official season is April- September. Fragrant Pink Currant Flowers in season now, they make for a beautiful garnish, stunning Garlic flowers are also available, but please pre-order. Fresh Cornish Seaweeds are in stock, which seem to be becoming increasingly popular. Also available coastal vegetables such as Sea Beet and Sea Purslane, see our forager Dan's report for more information. Wild garlic is in abundance and very reasonable in price! Kalette (sprout flowers) is now out of season until November time.

Italian Monks Beard (agretti) is in season, Tropea Onions too, which are unique onions that are protected by IGP and grown exclusively in Calabria, Southern Italy. Spanish Heirloom tomatoes and Spanish Artichokes are great now. Courgette flowers, Nettles (pre order) Cima Di Rapa, Wild Fennel and Tokyo turnips are all readily available. English Rainbow chard is about to start soon. Fantastic French white asparagus, albeit expensive is indeed worth every penny. Please pre order this one.

European stone fruits will start in the next few weeks, we will start to see some Peaches, Nectarines and Apricots. However keep in mind stone fruits are at their best in the summer months (June- August). Blood Oranges will finish soon. Air Freight Mangoes are in great condition, Green Thai Mangoes are back following a recent stop on this product coming out of Thailand.



EXOTICS

Pineapple, passionfruit, dragon fruit, mangosteen, papaya, physalis and mangoes.
(Lychees have finished)

If you have any menu additions feel free to contact us for further advice on prices and availability.

