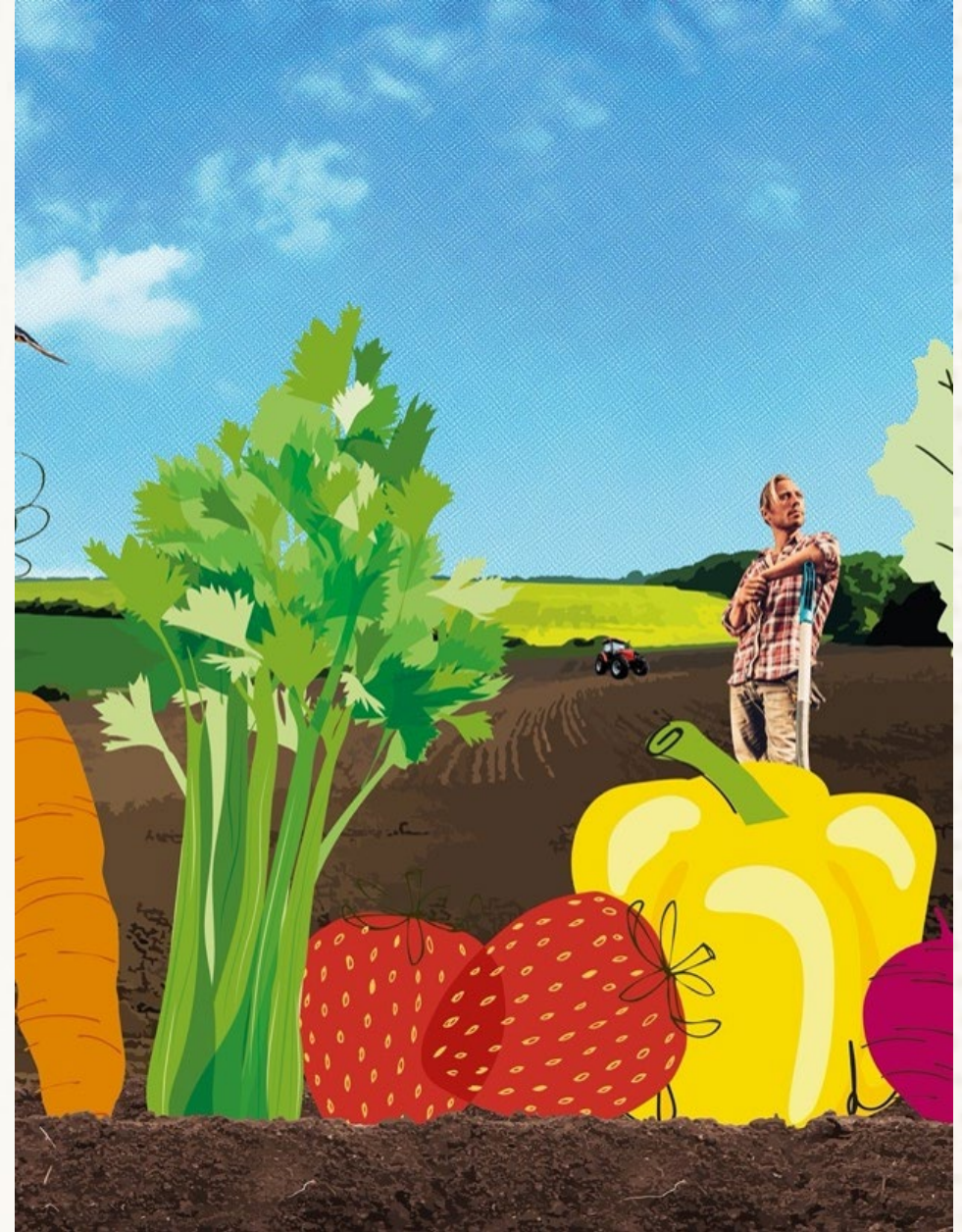


**freshdirect**<sup>™</sup>  
a Sysco company

# Supplier Spotlights

Summer 2023



# Isle of Wight Tomatoes

**Location:** Isle of Wight

**Produce (Apr – Oct):** Tomatoes, aubergines, Padron peppers

## Where it began

Formerly 'The Tomato Stall', founded in 2007, Isle of Wight Tomatoes grows tomatoes renowned for their excellent flavour and innovation, grown on the island with the most hours of sunshine in the UK.

## Innovation

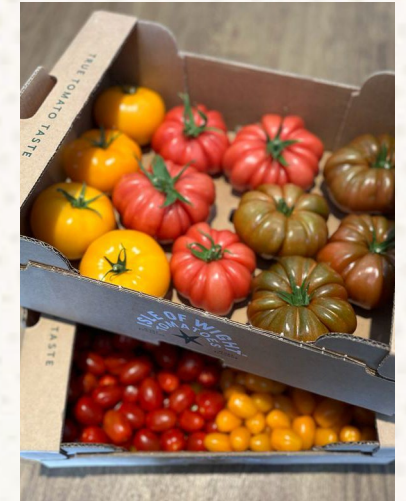
'Zero waste, maximum taste.' Fruit is fully developed on the vine, providing maximum ripeness, higher sugar content and fuller flavour.

The company works alongside seed companies globally to create and trial over 200 new varieties to seek the best varieties for the future.

## Sustainability

Isle of Wight Tomatoes encourages native bumblebees to pollinate 40 varieties of tomato across 27 hectares of glasshouses, using a closed-loop biodegradable system. This means all crop waste is recycled to enrich the organic soil.

Rainwater is stored and used in the growing process, with excess heat and CO<sub>2</sub> from local power generators used to heat glasshouses and reduce emissions.



# Hammond Produce

**Location:** Nottinghamshire

**Produce:** Carrots, kale, leeks, parsnips, potatoes, rhubarb, Savoy cabbage, spring greens, squash

## Their story

The Hammond family have been farming in the UK since 1900. They produce over 50,000 tonnes of fresh British vegetables every year.

## Expert British growers

A combination of expertise, planning, good-quality root crops, optimum soil conditions, planting precision and controlling pests allows for consistent supply of produce to Fresh Direct year-round.

## Sustainability

'We are constantly trying to make the environment better for us and the wildlife that lives here.'

Their integrated approach to farm management is typified by their LEAF, Red Tractor and BRC accreditation.

Hammond Produce is proud to be the home to 12 species of bird from the Endangered 'Red' List.



# Driscoll's / Berry Gardens

**Location:** Kent & Staffordshire

**Produce:** Strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, blueberries, cranberries, cherries & plums

## Behind the berries

Founded in 1972, Berry Gardens is the UK's leading berry and stone fruit producer, supplying fruit from multiple locations all over the country.

In November 2020, Berry Gardens partnered with Fresh Direct, with all packaging co-branded to further strengthen the partnership.

## Innovations in sustainability

Driscoll's are on a journey to reduce the use of single-use plastics, via the trial of new paper packaging.

Made with at least 94% less plastic than the previous solution, the new pack types are made from FSC-certified paper, which has passed extensive testing to perfectly preserve the delicate berries, maintaining product integrity and quality.

We will communicate updates later in the year once trials are complete.



**Driscoll's**®