



Commodity House

TEA MARKET REPORT

SALE NO: 29 of July 26 & 27, 2022

LANKA COMMODITY BROKERS LTD

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COMMENTS

This week's tea auction (Sale # 29) was conducted on July 26 & 27, 2022 (Tue/Wed), with a weight of 5.1 mkg, a decline of 0.3 mkg over the previous sale. The Low Grown Leafy, Semi Leafy, Tippy & Small Leaf / Premium Flowery catalogues totaled 2.3 mkg, while the Main Sale High & Medium segment had 0.67 mkg. The Ex Estate category had 0.54 mkg.

There was good demand for Ex Estate teas. Best Western BOP's and BOPF's sold around previous levels while neater below-best teas with coloury liquors gained Rs. 20/- to 50/-. Nuwara Eliya BOP's and BOPF's were irregular and tended easier, whilst Uda Pussellawa's were firm to irregularly lower following quality. A selection of seasonal Uva BOP's and BOPF's were dearer on account of special interest while others were mostly firm. CTC Teas - High Grown PF1's were firm and Rs. 20/- dearer, whilst coloury Mediums appreciated Rs. 20/- to 40/-, although poor leaf types lost by a similar margin and more. Low grows continued strong with fully firm prices. High grown BP1's were much dearer while Mediums too gained sharply. Low Grown BP1's were firm. There good demand from Japan, Germany and other European markets for the liquoring teas. Buyers for China, Taiwan and Hong Kong too were active. Russian interest was strong and widespread.

There was good demand for Low Grown Leafy teas, and, fair demand for Semi Leafy and Tippy / Small Leaf teas. Select best OP1's along with improved below-best teas were firm, while poorer sorts were maintained. Well-made OP's/OPA's were fully firm to selectively dearer. Select best BOP1's were firm while improved below-best sorts maintained last levels. Well made Pek/Pek1's were also firm. Stylish FBOP's were firm to easier whilst neater FBOPF1's held firm, and cleaner teas at the bottom were firm to selectively dearer. There was maintained demand from Middle Eastern buyers whilst the CIS shippers were active for leafy grades. Demand from Russia was fully maintained. Turkey supported the Pekoe grades. Libya continued to absorb secondary leafy grades, whilst Iraq was active on bottom level teas.

This week's auction comprised of 10,031 lots with a total quantity of 5,109,186 kgs.

The catalogue wise breakdown was as follows:-

	Lot	Qty.(Kgs)
Low Grown Leafy	1,976	819,749
Low Grown Semi Leafy	1,315	550,367
Low Grown Tippy	1,850	927,195
High & Medium	1,379	671,061
Off Grade/BOP1A	2,138	1,171,602
Dust	394	350,856
Premium Flowery	485	76,559
Ex-Estate	494	541,797
Total	<u>10,031</u>	<u>5,109,186</u>

In Lighter Vein

Rich Fathers

A 19-year-old Italian girl tells her Mom that she has missed her period for two months. Very worried, the mother goes to the drugstore and buys a pregnancy kit. The test result shows that the girl is pregnant. Shouting, cursing, and crying, the mother says, "Who was the pig that did this to you? I want to know!" The girl cries and says she only dated the father for a few weeks. She picks up the phone and makes a call.

Half an hour later, a Ferrari stops in front of their house. A mature and distinguished man with gray hair and impeccably dressed in an Armani suit steps out of the Ferrari and enters the house. He sits in the living room with the father, mother, and the girl and tells them: "Good morning, your daughter has informed me of the problem. I can't marry her because of my personal family situation but I'll take charge. I will pay all costs and provide for your daughter for the rest of her life." "Additionally, if a girl is born, I will bequeath a Ferrari, a beach house, two retail stores, a townhouse, a beachfront villa, and a \$2,000,000 bank account. If a boy is born, my legacy will be a couple of factories and a \$4,000,000 bank account. If twins, they will receive a factory and \$2,000,000 each. However, if the worst should happen and there is a miscarriage, what do you suggest we do?"

At this point, the father, who had remained silent, places a hand firmly on the man's shoulder and tells him: "You try again."

LEAFY/SEMI LEAFY

BOPI : Select best types maintained on last levels, others were fully firm to dearer.

OPI : All round showed irregular market condition and declined by Rs.40-60/-

OP : Best on offer gained Rs.50-80/-; others maintained last levels.

OPA : A Select few invoices gained Rs.30-60/- others were irregular and mostly lower.

PEK/PEK1 : Best on offer declined by Rs.50-70/-. Selective and below types declined Rs.40-60/-.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	Best		Below Best		Others	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
BOPI	3000 - 4100	3000 - 4300	2200 - 3000	2000 - 3000	1800 - 2200	1300 - 2000
OPI	2800 - 4050	3000 - 4100	2000 - 3800	2000 - 3000	1100 - 2000	1000 - 2000
OP	1600 - 3050	1500 - 2700	1200 - 1600	1000 - 1500	650 - 1200	600 - 1000
OPA	1400 - 2550	1300 - 2350	1000 - 1400	900 - 1300	450 - 1000	500 - 900
PEK/PEK1	1700 - 2500	1700 - 2750	1500 - 1700	1400 - 1700	1300 - 1500	1200 - 1400

TIPPY/SMALL LEAF

BOP/BOPSP : Select Best BOP's maintained, whilst cleaner/improved Below Best varieties gained substantially. Others and poorer sorts too were fully firm to selectively dearer.

BOPF/BOPFS : Well made BOPF's sold on last levels, whilst cleaner Below Best and cleaner teas at the lower end appreciated. Balance were irregular following quality.

FBOP/FBOP1 : Well made FBOP's were irregularly lower, whilst Cleaner Below Best and cleaner teas at the lower end held firm. Balance sold on last levels. FBOP1's in general were dearer.

FBOPF/FBOPF1 : Tippy teas were firm to irregularly lower. Best and Below Best together with cleaner teas at the lower end were firm to dearer. Balance were irregular following quality. Select Best and Best FF1's were firm to selectively dearer, whilst Below Best and cleaner teas at the lower end appreciated. Balance sold around last levels.

FBOPFSP/EXSP : A few select best invoices maintained on last levels, whilst balance declined.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	Best		Below Best		Others	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
BOP/BOPSP	2200 - 2900	2100 - 2850	1800 - 2200	1800 - 2100	900 - 1800	1000 - 1800
BOPF /BOPFSP	2000 - 2850	2000 - 2800	1500 - 2000	1700 - 2000	900 - 1800	1000 - 1700
FBOP/FBOP1	3000 - 3650	3200 - 3950	2000 - 3000	2200 - 3200	1800 -2200	1500 -2200
FBOPF/FBOPF1	2500 - 4700	2500 - 4200	1800 - 2500	2000 - 2500	1500 - 1800	1500 - 2000
FBOPFSP/EXSP	5000 - 10450	6000 - 10450	3000 - 5000	3000 - 6000	2000 - 3000	2000 - 3000

MEDIUM GROWN LEAFY/SEMI LEAFY TEAS

- FBOP** : Well made best FBOPs' tended irregularly lower; below best and the poorer sorts were firm on last levels.
- FBOPF/FBOPF1** : Best teas on offer firm on last levels; below best types tended irregular. Teas at the lower end too met with a fair demand.
- PEK/PEK1** : Well made shotty invoices gained Rs.10-20/-; below best and mixed varieties tended irregularly lower. Teas at the lower end too were firm to easier.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	Best		Below Best		Others	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
FBOP	2000 - 3550	2000 -3550	1650 - 2000	1700 - 2000	1400 - 1650	1500 - 1700
FBOPF/FBOPF1	1900 - 2700	1950 - 2650	1550 - 1950	1650 - 1950	1300 - 1550	1400 - 1650
PEK/PEK1	1300 - 2000	1350 - 2050	850 - 1300	1000 - 1350	850 - 950	900 - 1000

HIGH GROWNS TEAS

- BOP** : Best Western's sold well around last weeks levels although price fluctuations were observed following quality. In the Below Best category neat leaf coloury teas were firm and up to Rs. 50 per kg dearer, whilst the others were irregular. At the lower end, neat leaf types gained Rs. 50 per kg and more, whilst the others were barely steady. Nuwara Eliya's were irregular and tended easier. Uda Pussellawa's were firm. Uva's - Few seasonal invoices sold at dearer rates, whilst the others were firm and Rs. 20-40 per kg easier.
- BOPF** : Best Western's continued to sell well around last weeks levels. Teas in the Below Best and Plainer categories were firm and selectively dearer by up to Rs. 30 per kg. Nuwara Eliya's - The limited availability tended easier. Uda Pussellawa's were irregular following quality. Uva's - Few seasonal teas appreciated on last, whilst the others were mostly firm.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	BOP		BOPF	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
Best Westerns	1600 - 1800	1550 - 1900	1550 -1750	1450 -1700
Below Best Westerns	1400 - 1550	1350 - 1500	1400 - 1500	1300 - 1440
Plainer Westerns	1220 - 1380	1120 - 1340	1320 - 1380	1080 - 1280
Nuwara Eliyas	1850	1480 - 2200	1280	1320 - 1420
Brighter UdaPussellawas	1200 - 1380	1260 - 1400	1340 - 1550	1300 - 1420
Other Uda Pussellawas	1080 - 1180	1180 - 1200	1000 - 1280	1200 - 1280
Best Uva's	1260 - 1750	1260 - 1460	1360 - 2250	1380 - 1500
Other Uva's	N/A	N/A	1300 - 1320	1200 - 1280

MEDIUM GROWN TEAS

BOP : Irregular and mostly firm.

BOPF : Irregularly easier.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	BOP		BOPF	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
Best Westerns	2250 - 2700	1300 -2600	850-1140	900 -1380

CTC TEAS

HIGH GROWN:

BP1 - The limited availability on offer gained substantially for the Select Best, whilst the others too were firm and dearer

PF1 - Firm and Rs. 20 per kg dearer.

MEDIUM GROWN:

BP1 - Select invoices gained substantially, whilst the others were firm and dearer to a lesser extent.

PF1 - Select coloury invoices were Rs. 20-40 per kg dearer; whilst the others were irregular.

LOW GROWN:

BP1 - Generally firm.

PF1 - Better sorts were mostly firm, whilst the secondary types appreciated in value.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	BP1		PF1	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
High	1350 - 1600	1060 - 1100	1060 - 1500	1000 - 1460
Medium	750 - 1040	650 - 1040	720 - 1800	690 - 1700
Low	1040 - 1600	620 - 1730	850 - 3300	800 - 3150

OFF GRADES

FGS/FGS1 :

Select best Liquoring FNGS/FNGS1s' were dearer by Rs.40-60/- whilst others advanced Rs.25/- per kg. Clean Low Grown well made FNGS1's appreciated Rs.50-75/- per kg, and others were a little irregular.

BM :

Well-made BM's were firm to dearer Rs.50-75/-. Best types were a little irregular. Lower end teas were dearer Rs.20/- per kg and at times more.

BOPIA :

Select best BOP1A's were firm to dearer. Below best teas held at last levels. Poor types gained by Rs.20/-.

QUOTATIONS (Rs./kg)	HIGH		MEDIUM		LOW	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
Good Fannings (Orthodox)	800-1250	800-1050	630-750	620-720	650-1150	650-1260
Good Fannings (CTC)	580-820	580-850	550-800	550-850	540-680	540-600
Other Fannings (Orthodox)	550-700	550-700	540-700	540-650	520-640	520-630
Other Fannings (CTC)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Good BM's	650-770	630-750	680-770	630-730	800-1800	800-1750
Other BM's	490-580	490-580	490-580	490-580	480-560	480-570
Best BOP1As	680-700	700-720	700-760	700-770	1200-2000	1000-1800
Other BOP1As	500-620	500-590	500-610	500-590	500-630	500-600

DUST

DUST/DUST1 :

Liquoring High Grown D/D1's were firm on last levels-; others were irregularly lower. Low Grown Clean Dust/Dust1's were irregularly lower by Rs.20-40/-, whilst Below Best teas were firm on last levels.

PD :

PD's from High & Medium elevations held at last levels whilst Low Grown PD's gained Rs.30-40/-.

QUOTATIONS (Rs./kg)	HIGH		MEDIUM		LOW	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
Good Primary Dust1 (Orthodox)	1000-1750	1000-1700	850-1100	850-1100	950-1480	980-1600
Good Primary PD (CTC)	900-1360	880-1100	900-1300	850-1200	1000-2400	1000-2300
Secondary Dust	700-920	700-900	620-750	600-700	600-700	600-720

WESTERN MEDIUM

Craighead	BOP	+++	2700/-
*Harangalla	BOP		2500/-
*Dartry Valley	BOP		2500/-
Doombagastalawa	BOPSP		2350/-
*Ancoombra	BOPSP		2300/-
Craighead	BOPF/BOPFSP		2300/-
Nayapane	BOPI		3050/-
Harangalla	FBOP/BOPI+++		3500/-
*Dartry Valley	FF/FF1	+++	2700/-
*Harangalla	FF/FF1		2650/-
Galgewatte	OP/OPA		1900/-
Cooroodoowatte	OP/OPA		1900/-
*Orange Field	OP1		2700/-
Craighead	PEK/PEK1		2000/-
*Harangalla	PEK/PEK1		1950/-
*Orange Field	PEK/PEK1		1900/-

WESTERN HIGH

Wattogodde	BOP		1800/-
Queensberry	BOP SP+++		2450/-
Bambarakelley	BOPF/BOPFSP		1900/-
Weddemulla	BOPI		2450/-
Bambrakelly	FBOP/BOPI		2950/-
Bambarakelle	FBOPF/BOPI		2500/-
Venture	OP/OPA		2000/-
Venture	OP1		2200/-
Bogahawatte	PEK/PEK1		1850/-

NUWARA ELIYA

Mahagastotte	BOP		1850/-
Mahagastotte	BOPF/BOPFSP		1280/-
Court Lodge	FBOP/BOPI		2050/-
Court Lodge	PEK/PEK1		1360/-

CTC TEAS**HIGH GROWN**

Florence CTC	PF1+++	1500/-
Dunsinane CTC	BP1+++	1400/-
Dunsinane CTC	BPS+++	1180/-

MEDIUM GROWN

Rothschild CTC	PF1+++	1800/-
*New Peacock CTC	BP1+++	1180/-
Carolina CTC	BPS	790/-

LOW GROWN

Hingalgoda CTC	PF1+++	3300/-
Ceciliyan CTC	BP1	1600/-

UVA MEDIUM

Dickwella	BOP	++	2450/-
*Halpewatte Uva	BOPSP		2450/-
Haputale Super	BOPF/BOPFSP		2150/-
Glen Alpin	BOPI		3450/-
Tinioya	FBOP/BOPI		3150/-
Demondara 'S'	FBOPF/BOPI++		2550/-
Glen Alpin	OP/OPA		1750/-
Tinioya	OP/OPA		1750/-
Wewesse	OP/OPA		1750/-
Dickwella	OP1		3350/-
St. James	PEK/PEK1	+++	2600/-

UVA HIGH

Nayabedde	BOP		1460/-
Craig	BOPSP		2250/-
Uva Highlands	BOPF/BOPFSP	++	2550/-
*Battawatte	BOPI		2650/-
Ellathota Uva	BOPI		2650/-
*Battawatte	FBOP/BOPI		2550/-
Gonamotawa	FBOP/BOPI		2550/-
Oodoowerre	FBOPF/BOPI		2500/-
Glenanore	OP/OPA	+++	2250/-
Glenanore	OP1		2350/-
Aislaby	PEK/PEK1		2650/-

UDA PUSSELLAWA

Kirklees	BOP		1380/-
Alma	BOPSP		1800/-
Kirklees	BOPF/BOPFSP+++		1550/-
Delmar	BOPF/BOPFSP		2350/-
Delmar	FBOPF/BOPI		2400/-
Gonapitiya	FBOPF/BOPI		2400/-
Delmar	OP/OPA		1550/-
Alma	OP1		2150/-
Delmar	PEK/PEK1		1700/-

OFF GRADES

Maratenne	BP		1950/-
Galatarata	BP		1850/-
*Chandrika Estate	BP		1750/-
*Kothmale Hills	BP		1750/-
*Florence CTC	PF		800/-
Morawakkorale	BM		1850/-
Wewesse	FNGS/FNGS1		1380/-
Gouravilla	FNGS/FNGS1		1380/-
Diyagama East	FNGS/FNGS1		1380/-
Lakvinka	FNGS/FNGS1		1380/-
Moragalla A1	BOPIA	+++	2050/-

LOW GROWN LEAFY GRADES

Pothotuwa	BOPI		4100/-
New Vithanakande	BOPI		4050/-
Lumbini	BOPI		4050/-
*Sithaka	BOPI		4000/-
Pothotuwa	OP1		4050/-
Mulathiyana Hills	OP		3050/-
Lickra	OPA		2550/-
Golden Garden	PEKOE		2500/-
Nilrich	PEKOE1		2500/-
Kuttapitiya Super	PEKOE1		2450/-
Matuwagalla Super	PEKOE1		2450/-
Lions	PEKOE1		2450/-
New Batuwangala	PEKOE1		2450/-
*Andaradeniya Sup	PEKOE1		2400/-

LOW GROWN TIPPY GRADES

Pothotuwa	BOP		2900/-
Wathurawila	BOPSP		2600/-
*Sithaka	BOPF		2850/-
*Hidellana	BOPF		2450/-
*Sithaka	BOPFSP		2750/-
*Sithaka	FBOP		3650/-
Pothotuwa	FBOP		3650/-
Peak Forest	FBOP1		3300/-
*Hidellana	FBOP1		3200/-
Bulathsinghala Tea	FBOPF	++	4700/-
Hiniduma SH	FBOPF1		3400/-
Gangaboda	FBOPF1		3350/-
*Hidellana	FBOPF1		3250/-

PREMIUM FLOWERY

Maratenne	FBOPFSP		9950/-
New Deniyaya	FBOPFEXSP+++		10450/-
New Deniyaya	FBOPFEXSP1	++	10050/-

Dust

Mattakelle	DUST/DUST1		1750/-
Ceciliyan CTC	PD		2400/-

COLOMBO AUCTION - WEEKLY GROSS SALE AVERAGESSALE NO.28 OF 20TH JULY 2022

	2022			2021	
	Weekly	Month to Date	Year to Date	Weekly	Year to Date
Uva High Grown	1,237.11	1,210.98	949.16	516.20	557.63
Western High Grown	1,293.61	1,222.78	933.76	560.69	604.13
High Grown	1,270.26	1,218.11	938.72	546.47	590.60
Uva Medium	1,303.27	1,330.92	1,022.07	550.92	572.97
Western Medium	1,126.70	1,046.92	850.06	504.28	550.66
Medium Grown	1,192.50	1,145.73	903.27	520.00	557.30
Low Grown (Orthodox)	1,663.57	1,631.55	1,214.38	631.25	662.76
Combined L.G. (Orthodox + CTC)	1,639.42	1,605.91	1,185.45	623.57	662.76
Total	1,493.54	1,450.07	1,083.49	587.15	623.71

Private Sale Figures (18.07.2022 - 23.07.2022) - 39,026.00Kgs

Cumulative - 2,470,885.08Kgs

DETAILS OF TEAS AWAITING SALE

	<u>Sale of 02nd/03rd Aug.'22</u>		<u>Sale of 08th/09th Aug.'22</u>	
	<u>Lots</u>	<u>Qty. (Kgs)</u>	<u>Lots</u>	<u>Qty. (Kgs)</u>
Low Grown Leafy	1,971	820,907	1,980	817,018
Low Grown Semi Leafy	1,250	525,940	1,293	552,171
Low Grown Tippy	1,783	884,413	1,902	949,936
High & Medium	1,320	640,131	1,336	646,806
Off Grade/BOP1A	2,512	1,360,857	2,357	1,285,480
Dust	395	348,280	424	381,558
Premium Flowery	395	65,656	421	70,335
Ex-Estate	<u>520</u>	<u>554,414</u>	<u>578</u>	<u>629,001</u>
Total	<u>10,146</u>	<u>5,200,598</u>	<u>10,291</u>	<u>5,332,255</u>

FUTURE CATALOGUES CLOSURE

Sale No.32 of 16th/17th August, 2022

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues are scheduled to be closed on 28th July, 2022 at 04.30 p.m.

Sale No.33 of 23rd/24th August, 2022

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues are scheduled to be closed on 4th August 2022 at 04.30 p.m.

Sale No.34 of 30th /31st August, 2022

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues are scheduled to be closed on 12th August 2022 at 04.30 p.m.

BROKER'S SELLING ORDER

SALE NO.30

Auction of 02nd & 03rd August, 2022

Leafy/Tippy/BOP1A/Premium Flowery

1. Bartleet Produce Marketing (Pvt) Ltd
2. Asia Siyaka Commodities PLC
3. Ceylon Tea Brokers PLC
4. **Lanka Commodity Brokers Ltd**
5. Eastern Brokers PLC
6. John Keells PLC
7. Forbes & Walker Tea Brokers (Pvt) Ltd
8. Mercantile Produce Brokers (Pvt) Ltd

High & Medium/Off Grades/Dust

1. John Keells PLC
2. Asia Siyaka Commodities PLC
3. Mercantile Produce Brokers (Pvt) Ltd
4. Forbes & Walker Tea Brokers (Pvt) Ltd
5. Bartleet Produce Marketing (Pvt) Ltd
6. **Lanka Commodity Brokers Ltd**
7. Ceylon Tea Brokers PLC
8. Eastern Brokers PLC

Ex-Estate

1. Mercantile Produce Brokers (Pvt) Ltd
2. Bartleet Produce Marketing (Pvt) Ltd
3. Asia Siyaka Commodities PLC
4. **Lanka Commodity Brokers Ltd**
5. Ceylon Tea Brokers PLC
6. John Keells PLC
7. Forbes & Walker Tea Brokers (Pvt) Ltd
8. Eastern Brokers PLC

CROP & WEATHER

For the period of 18th to 24th July, 2022

Western/Nuwara Eliya Regions:- Overcast weather conditions and rain was reported from the Western Region, whilst bright mornings and light evening showers were reported in the Nuwara Eliya Region throughout the week. The Department of Meteorology expects isolated showers in the Western Region and heavy showers in the Nuwara Eliya Region in the week ahead..

Uva/Udapussellawa Region:- Bright mornings with isolated evening showers were reported in both regions throughout the week. According to the Department of Meteorology, heavy showers are expected in the Uva Region in the week ahead.

Low Grown:- Clear weather was reported in the Low Grown Region throughout the week. Isolated showers are expected in the Low Grown Region throughout the week according to the Department of Meteorology

Crop Intake: The Western and Nuwara Eliya regions maintained the crop intake, whilst an increase was reported in the Uva and Udapussellawa regions. The Low Grown Region reported a decline in the crop intake.

WORLD CROP STATISTICS (MKGS)

<i>Country</i>	<i>Month</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>Difference +/-</i>	<i>To-date 2021</i>	<i>To-date 2022</i>	<i>Difference +/-</i>
SRI LANKA	<i>June</i>	26.07	20.15	-5.92	161.71	132.93	-28.78
BANGLADESH	<i>May</i>	6.15	7.42	1.27	12.07	14.48	2.41
KENYA	<i>Mar.</i>	48.70	46.30	-2.40	141.00	135.80	-5.2
NORTH INDIA	<i>May</i>	78.20	100.2	22.00	179.60	225.40	45.80
SOUTH INDIA	<i>May</i>	24.40	26.90	2.50	97.50	94.70	-2.80
MALAWI	<i>April</i>	6.40	7.10	0.70	28.60	26.00	-2.6
TANZANIA	<i>Mar.</i>	3.33	7.89	4.56	9.41	13.04	3.6
UGANDA	<i>Mar.</i>	5.56	4.35	-1.2	18.49	15.91	-2.58

- OTHER MARKETS -

MOMBASA TEA AUCTION

SALE NO.30 OF 25TH - 27TH JULY, 2022

Generally fair demand at irregular levels for the 180,695 packages (11.88m/kgs) in the market with 24.82% remaining unsold.

Leaf Grades(M2) - 97,599 packages (6.40m/kgs) – 30.82% unsold

BP1:

Best –Useful but irregular competition following quality ranging between steady to USC88 dearer to easier by up to USC30.

Brighter – Varied between firm to USC15 dearer to easier by up to USC10 with some teas neglected.

Mediums – KTDA mediums were steady to USC10 below last levels with many invoices remaining unsold while Plantation mediums saw improved activity and appreciated by up to USC28.

Plainer –Ranged between firm to USC12 dearer to easier by a similar margin.

PF1:

Best – Shed up to USC20.

Brighter –Steady to USC10 below last prices.

Mediums – KTDA mediums ranged between firm to USC10 easier with plantation mediums losing up to USC12.

Plainer – Were irregular ranging between steady to USC13 dearer to easier by up to USC20.

Dust Grades (M1) - 54,320 packages (4.03m/kgs) – 12.67% unsold

PDUST:

Best –Irregular demand varying between firm to USC9 dearer to easier by up to USC16.

Brighter – Advanced by up to USC10.

Mediums – KTDA mediums were steady to USC5 above previous levels with plantation mediums irregular ranging between firm to USC8 dearer to easier by up to USC7.

Plainer – Met improved interest and gained up to USC16 but a few invoices lost up to USC5.

DUST1:

Best – Shed up to USC11 but selected invoices appreciated by USC4 to USC8.

Brighter –Were mainly steady to USC4 dearer but a few lines lost up to USC9.

Mediums – KTDA mediums were irregular varying between firm to USC3 dearer while most teas shed up to USC5; plantation mediums appreciated by up to USC6 but some select lines were discounted by up to USC14.

Plainer – Were irregular with some lines advancing by up to USC10 while others shed up to USC14.

Secondary grades (S1) - 28,776 packages (1.45m/kgs) – 27.38% unsold.

In the Secondary Catalogues, BPs held value with PFs barely steady. Clean well sorted coloury Fannings tended easier while DUSTs were irregular but on balance easier. Other Fannings appreciated with similar DUSTs discounted. BMFs were well absorbed.

MARKETS

Egyptian Packers, Yemen, other Middle Eastern countries and Sudan maintained useful support with improved interest from Kazakhstan, other CIS states and UK while Pakistan Packers, Bazaar and Afghanistan showed reduced activity. Russia were less active with Iran absent. Local Packers maintained interest with Somalia active at the lower end of the market.

MALAWI TEA MARKET REPORT - SALE 30 of 27/7/2022

There was fair demand at firm rates following quality.

BP1 - were firm on last.

PF1SC – Few invoices on offer were dearer by 3 to 5 USC.

PF1 - continued to meet selective interest at firm levels following quality.

PD – N/A.

D1 – tended firm.

Secondary teas were neglected on account of leaf appearance.

WEATHER/CROP FOR THE WEEK ENDING 24TH JULY, 2022

Partly cloudy, cold to very cold at night and early mornings.

Crop intakes continued low.

SOUTH INDIAN ROUNDUP FOR THE WEEKENDING

16TH JULY, 2022

KOCHI

CTC LEAF

Demand : Fair demand. All grades sold around last levels with some withdrawals

ORTHODOX LEAF

Demand : Good demand.

Market : High grown & medium whole leaf, larger brokens sold fully firm to occasionally dearer levels. Smaller brokens sold around last levels.

Buying Pattern : Middle East and CIS buyers operated.

DUST

Demand : Better General Demand.

Market : Good liquoring popular varieties and better mediums sold at firm levels. Plainers met with increased export enquiry and advanced in value by Rs 2 to Rs 3.

Buying Pattern : Major Blenders were active & internal buyers operated.

COONOOR

CTC LEAF

Demand : Strong.

Market : Market had opened on a fully firm to dearer note across all types and categories. As the sale progressed it had gained momentum to witness a further appreciation in the price levels and went on to be sold at Rs.6/- higher overall. The sale also witnessed 90 plus percentage for the first time in this calendar year.

The overall sale percentage is 92% at an average of Rs. 78.98.

Buying Pattern : Quite stronger participation was forthcoming from the Major Blenders and equally well supported by the Exporters in which SSK Exports and Girnar Food & Beverages were seen active. Internal buyers were lending fairly good support.

ORTH LEAF

Demand : Strong.

Market : Market for the cleaner popular types have been steady to fully firm and irregularly lower for the discoloured stalky teas, which also suffered fair outlots.

The overall sale percentage is 88% at an average of Rs. 119.32.

Buying Pattern: Fairly stronger operation was forthcoming from the Exporters with Consolidated Tea being active.

CTC DUST

Demand : Strong.

Market : The Dust market continued to have a good run with buoyant demand. This week too it had opened strongly to be ended up selling at Rs. 8/- higher overall. The price surge was witnessed more on the fairly cleaner and blacker types.

The overall sale percentage is 97% at an average of Rs. 94.04

Buying Pattern : Strong Export participation was forthcoming in which SSK Exports and Girnar were active. The Internal buyers and Major Blenders were also seen lending good support.

ORTH DUST

Demand : Strong.

Market : Like CTC Dust, Orthodox also witnessed buoyant demand. The Primary dusts were selling at fully firm to dearer levels by Rs.5/- to Rs. 10/- and more upto Rs. 20/- following quality. The dearer tendency was seen across all types and categories in general.

The overall sale percentage is 91% at an average of Rs. 100.37.

Buying Pattern : Yet again strong Export enquiry was forthcoming with Internal lending fair support.

COIMBATORE**CTC LEAF**

Demand : Good general demand.

Market : Better medium teas were barely steady with heavy withdrawals. Medium teas were firm to dearer by Rs.2/- to Rs.3/-. However BOPF's were dearer by Rs.5/- to Rs.8/- sometimes more on blacker and grainy teas. Plainer teas were dearer by Rs.4/- to Rs.5/-.

Buying Pattern :: Blenders , packeteers and exporters were active. Others selective.

ORTH LEAF:

Demand : Good general demand.

Market : Whole leaf were barely steady. Well made blacker / cleaner brokens were dearer by Rs.3/- to Rs.4/-. Secondary brokens were lower by Rs.4/- to Rs.5/-. BOPF's not quotable.

Buying Pattern : Exporters were active.

CTC DUST

Demand : Good demand.

Market : Better medium / popular sorts were firm to dearer by Rs.2/- to Rs.3/- with few withdrawals. Medium teas were firm to dearer by Rs.2/- to Rs.4/- sometimes more on blacker and grainy teas. Plainer teas were fully firm to occasionally dearer by Rs.2/-.

Buying Pattern : Blenders & packeteers and exporters were active. Others selective.

ORTH DUST

Not quotable

BANGLADESH AUCTION

SALE NO.12 OF MONDAY 25TH JULY, 2022

- CTC LEAF** : 53,067 packages of Current Season & 119 packages of Old Season teas on offer met with a good demand
- BROKENS** : Well made good liquoring Brokens met with a good market and were mostly dearer following competition. Good varieties met a good demand and sold at around last levels whilst Medium varieties met with a fairly good demand and were slightly easier. Plainer sorts again met with a fair demand at slightly easier rates. BLF teas also met with a fair demand at around last levels with some withdrawals.
- FANNINGS** : Best Fannings met with a good market and were mostly firm to slightly dearer following competition. Good Fannings met with a little more interest and sold at around last levels easing slightly in line with quality. Medium and plainer varieties met with a fair demand at slightly easier rates. BLF teas also met with a fair demand at around last levels with some withdrawals.
- CTCDUST** : 3,534 packages of Current Season teas on offer met with fair demand. Good liquoring well made Dusts met with fair competition and were slightly lower. Mediums met with better demand and were firm to slightly dearer. Plain and BLF Dusts were an easier market and witnessed a few withdrawals. Blenders lent strong support with fair interest from the Loose tea buyers.
- COMMENTS** : This sale witnessed a little more demand particularly for well made good liquoring varieties which were mostly dearer. Blenders continued to lend good support along with more interest from the Loose tea buyers particularly for the best varieties.

Our catalogue: (Sale 12) Avg: Tk 213.20, Sold 83.1% & (Sale 11) Avg: Tk 208.61, sold 83.8%.

Quotations – This Week – (In Taka)

Brokens	This Week	Last Week	Fannings	This Week	Last Week	Dust	This Week	Last Week
Large	NQTA	NQTA	Best	210 - 215	208 - 213	PD	175 - 228	175 - 235
Medium	193 - 208	195 - 207	Good	200 - 205	198 - 213	RD	143 - 250	159 - 380
Small	195 - 205	195 - 205	Medium	190 - 195	188 - 193	D	158 - 352	146 - 265
Plain	175 - 180	178 - 180	Plain	175 - 180	175 - 180	CD	175 - 408	179 - 410
BLF	120 - 140	120 - 140	BLF	120 - 140	120 - 140	BLF	143 - 205	146 - 199

COURTESY: NATIONAL BROKERS LTD

27th July, 2022.

-/ra.

INTERNATIONAL TEA NEWS

HEALTH & MEDICAL NEWS

Healthiest Drink In The World? 5 Terrific Health Benefits From Tea, According To Science!

It's no secret that drinking tea is good for you. Could it possibly be the healthiest drink in the world? Tea has been an integral part of traditional medicine for thousands of years and is revered as a cure-all in many Asian countries. It also serves as a great substitute for folks who need a morning jolt of caffeine, but don't drink coffee.

The [benefits of drinking tea](#) go far beyond simply feeling better when you're sick. Drinking tea can help protect brain health, improve [heart health](#), and may even prevent certain types of cancer. It may even help you lose weight and live longer!

Here's a brief look at five studies published on StudyFinds over the years discussing more of what drinking tea could do to boost your health.^{2:23}

Tea helps lower blood pressure

Tea has been going into people's cups for around 4,000 years ago. One study shows it may also be the secret ingredient for keeping your [blood pressure](#) in check. Researchers have discovered that tea contains compounds that help [blood vessels](#) relax.

The study shows a specific protein called KCNQ5, which regulates the flow of ions, was activated by two plant compounds in tea that protect cells from free radical damage. These compounds, *epicatechin gallate* and *epigallocatechin-3-gallate*, stimulate KCNQ5 proteins to move potassium ions out of the cells. These compounds, *epicatechin gallate* and *epigallocatechin-3-gallate*, stimulate KCNQ5 proteins to move potassium ions out of the cells.

In the study, researchers found that the ion channels worked most efficiently under a direct application of [pure black tea](#), rather than with the addition of milk. However, this doesn't mean one needs to avoid milk when drinking tea to take advantage of the benefits for blood pressure.

Further studies suggested tea yields beneficial antihypertensive properties even with the addition of milk. Additional research also shows that [green tea](#) is more effective when warmed to 95 degrees Fahrenheit. Thus, regardless of whether tea is consumed iced or hot, this temperature is achieved after tea is drunk, as the human body temperature is about 37 degrees Celsius.

A morning cup can add years to lifespan — when paired with an apple

An apple a day may keep the reaper away — especially when enjoyed with a cup of hot tea. Scientists say that eating foods rich in flavonoids, a compound found in high concentrations in colorful foods like apples and beverages such as tea, lowers one's risk of death.

For the study, researchers examined diet data from more than 53,000 Danish citizens collected over 23 years. Findings show that those who regularly ate flavonoid-rich foods saw a reduced risk of developing cancer and heart disease. This protective effect was the strongest for those with a high risk of chronic diseases because of smoking cigarettes and from drinking more than two alcoholic beverages per day.

These findings are important as they highlight the potential to prevent cancer and heart disease by encouraging the consumption of flavonoid-rich foods, particularly in people at high risk of these chronic diseases. According to the study results, the recommended daily amount of flavonoids is 500mg. Prior research shows that typical cup of tea provides about 172mg of flavonoids.

Thus, it's important to consume a variety of different flavonoid compounds found in different plant based food and drink. This is easily achievable through the diet: one cup of tea, one apple, one orange, 100g of blueberries, and 100g of broccoli would provide a wide range of flavonoid compounds and over 500mg of total flavonoids.

Drink tea to lose weight!

A dose of English breakfast in the morning could help you keep off extra weight. Research shows that black tea consumption may be an effective aid in weight loss efforts, as much as the highly-touted benefits of the beverage's green cousin.

Researchers at UCLA conducted an experiment with mice, finding that black tea changed their metabolic markers as much as green tea, although in different ways. Namely, green tea's polyphenols in previous studies were found to change energy metabolism in the liver, a result that was confirmed in this latest trial. The authors made the new discovery, however, that black teas promote the growth of gut bacteria and short-chain fatty acids, the latter of which have been linked to shifts in the liver's energy metabolism.

“It was known that green tea polyphenols are more effective and offer more health benefits than black tea polyphenols since green tea chemicals are absorbed into the blood and tissue,” explains lead author Susanne Henning. “Our new findings suggest that black tea, through a specific mechanism through the gut microbiome, may also contribute to good health and weight loss in humans.”

Using mouse models, the authors were able to prove that both green and black tea have health benefits extending beyond improved metabolism, the researchers argue. A separate study also found that [drinking oolong tea](#) increases the breakdown of fat and continues to work even when a person is resting.

Reduces dementia and stroke risk

Good news for both coffee *and* tea drinkers, an extra cup of either beverage may help fight off serious health risks as you age. A study finds that drinking more coffee, more tea, or a combination of both appears to lower the risk of suffering a stroke or developing dementia later in life.

In a review of over 365,000 older adults, study authors discovered a link between participants drinking more coffee and tea and falling rates of both stroke and dementia cases among a group of 50- to 74-year-olds. Researchers followed them for four years and each person self-reported their [daily coffee](#) and tea-drinking habits. Over that time, 5,079 participants developed dementia and 10,053 had at least one stroke.

Findings reveal that people drinking [two to three cups of coffee](#) and two to three cups of tea each day lowered their risk of having a stroke by 32 percent. Their risk of developing dementia dropped by 28 percent in comparison to people who don't drink either beverage.

Based on the data, study authors determined that people drinking two to three [cups of coffee](#), three to five [cups of tea](#), or a combination of four to six cups of both beverages each day had the lowest rates of both stroke and dementia in the group. In some cases, the symptoms of dementia can appear after a person suffers a stroke. Doctors call this [post-stroke dementia](#). The study finds drinking more coffee or [combining coffee drinking with tea](#) also lowered the risk of post-stroke dementia cases.

It reduces risk of liver failure, too

Drinking coffee and tea may jumpstart your day with a jolt of energy, but drinking either will also help you avoid [serious liver complications](#) later in life, a new study finds.

For the study, researchers analyzed data on 2,424 participants from a longitudinal study that examined individuals 45 years of age or older. Included within the study were various health biomarkers from participants, including data on one's blood, height, weight, and level of liver stiffness.

The study concludes that coffee and herbal tea consumption was linked to lower odds of one developing scarring of the liver, which is often a precursor of cirrhosis, or liver failure. These findings held consistent regardless of other variables, such as one's lifestyle, [metabolism](#), or environment.

Liver damage has become much more prevalent in recent years, in large part due to a [sedentary lifestyle](#), decreased physical activity, and consumption of a ‘Happy Diet’. This might run counter to common wisdom that would seem to suggest that alcohol alone is the main culprit for liver problems. The study aims to add more research to identify the optimum amounts and the type(s) of coffee and tea leading to more favorable liver outcomes.

Going green can boost brain health, memory

Green tea has long been touted for its role in helping to prevent conditions from [Alzheimer’s disease](#) to cancer. A recent study shows it carries an ingredient that helps reduce [memory loss](#), brain insulin resistance, and one’s risk for obesity, too.

Research released by the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology shows that epigallocatechin-3-gallate (EGCG), a biologically-active ingredient prevalent in green tea, could alleviate high-fat, high-fructose-induced insulin resistance in the brain, as well as cognitive impairment.

While previous research has identified EGCG as a way to treat many diseases in humans, this latest study shows a positive impact on insulin resistance and cognitive defects [triggered in the brain](#) by an average Western diet.

“Green tea is the second most consumed beverage in the world after water, and is grown in at least 30 countries,” explains researcher Xuebo Liu. “The ancient habit of drinking green tea may be a more acceptable alternative to medicine when it comes to combatting obesity, insulin resistance, and memory impairment.”

Bella Vista Tea Company’s 161-Acre Farm to Emphasize Agritourism, Education from Seed to Cup

By Aaron Kiel Jul 21, 2022 12:23am

Jeremy Wickenheiser and his father Richard, co-owners and farmers at Bella Vista Tea Company (Photo: Courtesy of Bella Vista Tea Company)

Jeremy Wickenheiser and his father Richard are co-owners and farmers at [Bella Vista Tea Company](#), a 161-acre farm that’s located east of Bella Vista in Northern California – a former lumber town that means “beautiful view” in Spanish.

Currently, a half-acre of the farm is planted with tea, but this will expand in the next year to an acre. Their mission is to grow, harvest and handcraft farm-to-cup specialty teas while simultaneously providing an agritourism space for tea enthusiasts to learn about tea and connect.

“We believe that each tea tells a story,” said Wickenheiser. “When we drink tea, not only do we connect to the farmers and the land where the tea was grown, but we connect to the essence of nature. Tea invites us to slow down and foster connection first with ourselves and then with others.”



Planting tea plants (Photo: Courtesy of Bella Vista Tea Company)

Wickenheiser is an award-winning educator who taught multiple subjects over the past 16 years, ranging from biology to physics to entrepreneurship. He created a solar car engineering program, advised a team to the national finals of an engineering design competition, and founded and scaled a 7th- to 12th-grade entrepreneurial studies program for students. During his career, he also coached hundreds of startup companies across multiple industries.

Wickenheiser’s father, Richard, is a board-certified internal medicine physician with a degree in electrical and electronics engineering with a sub-speciality in biomedical engineering. He worked in clinical and administrative medicine from 1983 to 2017 and was involved with developing one of the first electronic medical records. In addition to private practice, Richard served as the Tehama County health officer in California. While retired now, he was called back to lead the county during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

On an Exciting Journey in the World of U.S.-Grown Tea

With distinguished backgrounds, the two fledgling tea farmers are on an exciting journey that officially started when they planted their first 330 tea plants in October 2019. They

formally established Bella Vista Tea Company in January 2020, but they started researching and working on the concept in 2017, after Wickenheiser made his fourth trip to East Africa and his first trip to India.

“We are most excited about creating an experience where consumers can learn about tea and different tea traditions from around the world in one location,” shared Wickenheiser.

As a farm and agritourism-focused business, Bella Vista Tea Company plans to offer numerous activities for visitors, including tea tastings of teas produced at the farm, “chanoyu” in an authentic Japanese teahouse, farm stays, tea production workshops and retreats, and activities like guided hikes and paddleboard yoga, among other happenings. They also believe that agritourism can be virtual, so they plan to hold virtual tea tastings and activities online too, for those that aren’t able to travel to the farm.



Tea terrace (Photo: Courtesy of Bella Vista Tea Company)

In addition, Bella Vista Tea Company intends to collaborate with and highlight local rural businesses, to support them in reaching a new audience. “This might include collaborating with a local potter on creating a limited edition set of teacups or blending our tea with botanicals grown by a local farmer,” said Wickenheiser. “We believe that Bella Vista Tea Company can bring a new and different consumer to our local community, which will positively impact our local economy.”

The Bella Vista Tea Company farm is currently on schedule to open to tea enthusiasts in the spring of 2023. In 2024, they plan to open the “farm stay” portion of the business and continue as an FDA-approved tea processing facility.

A Focus on Biodiversity, Long-Term Stewardship of the Land

Wickenheiser's dad purchased the first parcel of land that makes up the Bella Vista Tea Company in 2008, after seeing an ad in *The Nickel* (a locally printed publication, similar to Craigslist). "Since then, we have established four spring-fed reservoirs stocked with bass and trout, plus miles of hiking trails," said Wickenheiser.

The farm itself is at 2,000 feet elevation and sits in an oak woodlands transition zone (a mixture of oaks and pine trees) with views of Mt. Lassen and Mt. Burney. Annually, they receive between 50 to 72 inches of rain.

The farm is entirely off-grid and incredibly tranquil, according to Wickenheiser. "It is home to many species of wildlife including deer, turkey, bear, rabbit and fox," he said. "Each year, migratory birds such as ducks and geese visit the farm. In terms of growing tea, I believe we are showing that tea will grow here. But it is more nuanced than that since it is about identifying the cultivars best suited to our specific microclimate."



A reservoir at the Bella Vista Tea Company farm
(Photo: Courtesy of Bella Vista Tea Company)

The two farmers at Bella Vista Tea Company have sought out a wide variety of *Camellia sinensis* cultivars to plant at the farm. Currently, they have more than 1,000 tea plants in the ground and will add an additional 1,000 to 2,000 plants in the next one to two years, to fill an acre.

“Most of the tea plants at the farm are grown from seed and are from a mixture of many different cultivars,” said Wickenheiser. “We also have well-known varieties including Bohea, Long Jing 43, Fu Ding, Jin Guan Yin and Benekaori. Since our farm is designed primarily for education, we have a unique opportunity to do things that would not make sense for a tea plantation, such as space some tea plants to allow them to grow into trees.”

Wickenheiser and his father also started growing their own tea plants from cuttings, and next year they will begin growing plants from seed. “We can then select and grow the cultivars best suited for our microclimate,” explained Wickenheiser. “We will use these tea plants to expand the farm and also sell them to local tea enthusiasts who want to grow their own tea at home.”

In 2023, the farm will plant botanicals – a number of them native to California – to blend with their teas. “We also want to build genetic diversity to make the farm more resilient,” noted Wickenheiser. “We know that each decision we make will have a long-lasting impact, so we are thoughtfully building a place that will allow for long-term stewardship of the land. Overall, this makes establishing the farm a slow process filled with trial and error.”



Fresh leaf

(Photo: Courtesy of Bella Vista Tea Company)

Educating Consumers About Growing Tea and Tea Production

Tea lovers who visit the Bella Vista Tea Company farm will have the opportunity to follow a tea's journey from seed to cup. “They will learn how tea plants are grown from both seed and cuttings in our nursery, participate in plucking and processing tea, and ultimately drink a tea they helped to make,” said Wickenheiser.

Since the farm assembled a collection of cultivars from around the world, visitors to the farm can also explore how tea is brewed and consumed in different cultures. For example, Wickenheiser said that visitors who participate in a tea harvest and processing workshop might brew a tea crafted from a Turkish cultivar in a samovar or a tea produced from a Chinese cultivar in a gaiwan.

Wickenheiser pointed out that [most people in the United States](#) live in urban cities and very few live and work on farms, making Bella Vista Tea Company and farm a unique experience for many.

“Agritourism creates connection,” Wickenheiser said. “It provides consumers the opportunity to connect with the individuals that grow their food. It also can provide immersive and educational experiences that equip people with the knowledge and resources to create their own agricultural products. And most importantly, it allows them to build a connection to the land such that it becomes part of their own story.”



Black tea at the farm

(Photo: Courtesy of Bella Vista Tea Company)

Getting Support from the Tea Community, U.S. Tea Growers

While Wickenheiser and his father do not have a background in agriculture, they conducted a great deal of research, read many books and research papers, and talked with experts from the tea and agriculture communities.

Just some of the people that helped Bella Vista Tea Company along their journey, as they learned how to grow tea, include: Jason McDonald and Timothy Gibson of [The Great Mississippi Tea Company](#); Virginia Utermohlen Lovelace, an independent tea consultant, writer and educator; Mark Gaskell and Ben Faber, farm advisers; Katharine Burnett and Jackie Gervay-Hague of [UC Davis' Global Tea Initiative](#); Jim Nuccio of [Nuccio's Nurseries](#); Kacie Merkel and Elizabeth Miller of [Minto Island Tea Company](#); Mike Fritts of Golden Feather Tea; David Barron of [Fleur De Lis Tea Company](#); and Angela McDonald of [The U.S. League of Tea Growers](#).

Ultimately, Wickenheiser said it has been a lot of trial and error to determine what works best for their specific location and environment, in terms of growing tea. For instance, some of the tea plants they purchased died almost immediately when planted because they were unsuitable for their location.

Right now, Bella Vista Tea Company is hand-processing small batches of tea at the farm and sharing them with family and friends, and they've already purchased and imported all of the necessary tea processing machinery.

"We plan to construct an FDA-registered tea processing facility by spring of 2024," revealed Wickenheiser. "We will offer a line of California-grown teas and botanicals including black, green and oolong teas. We are also interested in creating teas that honor different agricultural products grown in California, such as rice for a Genmaicha."

This fall, Bella Vista Tea Company will launch an e-commerce site, offering a line of teaware and other unique items, including engraved wooden coasters produced at the farm, according to Wickenheiser, who also has a background in ceramics and plans to use wood from the trees to create some of the products, such as tea trays and tea tables.

Rescuing a Japanese Teahouse, Adding It to the Farm

Through his contacts, Wickenheiser recently learned about a developer that purchased a house in the San Francisco bay area. That house included a traditional Japanese teahouse in the backyard, which was going to be destroyed or removed before the new owner razed the property to build something new.

"While exploring if we could move the teahouse, and if so, what would be the best way, we learned who built the teahouse and when it was built [it was built in 1995]," said Wickenheiser. "In March 2022, we purchased the teahouse and are now in the final stages of having the teahouse wrapped in plastic and moved 200 miles to the farm."

Wickenheiser said the teahouse is in good shape and when it arrives at the farm, a Japanese carpenter will complete some minor repairs. “The teahouse will be a place for people to gather for tea and experience Chanoyu,” he explained. “In the future, we would like to produce micro batches of matcha that can be served in the teahouse. We believe it is important to preserve the past while innovating for the future. The addition of the Japanese teahouse to the farm is an exciting part of that vision.”



The rescued teahouse

(Photo: Courtesy of Bella Vista Tea Company)

'An Exciting Time to Be a Tea Farmer in the U.S.'

Overall, as more tea growers continue to pop up across the country, Wickenheiser said he believes it's possible to grow tea successfully in the United States.

“Personally, I think it is an exciting time to be a tea farmer in the U.S. because there are opportunities to innovate while also learning from best practices developed around the world,” he said. “In the U.S. tea industry, there is a lot of collegiality and a willingness to collaborate and support each other. There is a sense that by collaborating, we can all create high-quality products that establish a strong brand for U.S. grown tea, which benefits all U.S. tea growers.”



Mountain view at the tea farm

(Photo: Courtesy of Bella Vista Tea Company)