

## **Italy: Nice weather pushes courgette production but affects prices**

Courgette prices are decreasing because of good weather, strangely enough. "Volumes and prices vary a lot depending on the weather," explains Nino Leonardi from Leonardi snc.

To understand what happened, we must go back to week 41: "rain and hail affected production and prices increased." At the time, most of the production came from Sicily, so prices in Verona, "varied between 90 cents and €1.10-1.20/kg. Demand from Europe was also good, as the prices of Spanish produce were higher."

The situation changed completely in week 42, because the weather stabilised. "35-36°C were reached in Ragusa and the same happened in Latina and Sabaudia. This increased production and a bigger supply combined with low consumption led to a drop in prices. Last week, prices went from 70 cents to €1/kg tops."

"The same happened in Spain. Once their prices dropped, Europe started getting supplied from them once again, so foreign demand for Italian courgettes froze," concludes Leonardi.

Source :[www.freshplaza.com/](http://www.freshplaza.com/) 29/10/2014