

Spain: Almeria, a decade as EU's largest watermelon supplier

Almeria has remained the EU's largest watermelon supplier for the past ten years, only surpassed by Spain's global sales, according to data processed by Hortoinfo and supplied by the statistical services Euroestacom (Icex-Eurostat) and Estacom (Icex-Tax Agency).

Last year, Spain sold its European Union partners a total of 483.04 million kilos of watermelons; 40.26 percent of the total EU purchases. This is three times as much as Italy, which is the second largest supplier.

Of the total Spanish watermelon sales to the EU, 43.97 percent came from the province of Almeria, which exported 212.4 million kilos of the fruit, while Murcia shipped 142.73 million kilos.

As the second largest watermelon supplier to the EU, Italy sold its EU partners 158.51 million kilos, 13.21 percent of the total. Greece stands third in the ranking with 111.86 million kilos (9.32% of the total).

The EU's fourth largest watermelon supplier is Hungary, with 78.01 million kilos, 6.50 percent of the total. The fifth position is for the Netherlands, with 70.36 million kilos (5.86%); Germany follows in sixth position with 48.67 million kilos (4.06%); Costa Rica is seventh, with 32.26 million kilos (2.69%), followed by Morocco in eighth position, with 30.72 million kilos (2.56%); Brazil is the EU's ninth largest supplier with 28 million kilos (2.33%) and Panama closes the top ten with 20.87 million kilos, 1.74 percent of the total sales in 2014.

It is worth noting that the reason why some northern European countries appear in prominent places in the ranking, despite not being large producers, is because they import from other countries, mostly from Spain, and then re-export the fruit to other EU member states.

Total purchases of watermelon by the EU in 2014 amounted to 1,199.92 million kilos at an average price of 0.43 Euro per kilo.

Source : <http://www.freshplaza.com/10/06/2015>