

Spain: Huelva growers turn focus away from strawberries

Strawberry plantation hectareage in a key Spanish growing region has fallen year-on-year, despite strong gains for the other three major berry categories.

The Huelva Strawberry Growers and Exporters Association, Freshuelva, said the total surface area for all berry plantations had grown 4% to 10,030 hectares.

Breaking down the figures, however, strawberry plantations fell 7%, while raspberry, blueberry and blackberry plantations collective rose 22%.

There are now 5,400 hectares of strawberry production, down from 5,860 last year.

The biggest growth was in the blueberry category, which grew 30% year-on-year to 2,538 hectares, while raspberries saw a more modest growth rate of 6%, with hectareage now totalling 1,932.

The region's blackberry plantations grew 23% to 160 hectares.

Freshuelva highlighted that while there had been significant blueberry plantings over the last year, it would take a while before the plants began to produce substantial volumes.

The organization also said the data demonstrated its commitment to crop diversification and to guaranteeing a supply of blueberries from the region for nine months a year.

Lien article: <http://www.freshfruitportal.com/news/2016/11/25/spain-hueva-growers-turn-focus-away-from-strawberries/>