

## Spain: Frosts affect 4,000 hectares of grapes, almonds and fruit in Valencia

The intense frost recorded during the nights of Thursday and Friday had "a catastrophic impact on the agriculture and livestock farming of the comarca Los Serranos." In a first evaluation of the damages, the Valencian Association of Farmers (AVA-ASAJA) has quantified the losses at 4 million Euro in 4,000 hectares of grapes, almonds and fruit.

In a statement, the agrarian organization explained that the cold temperatures have devastated entire fields of grapes for winemaking, almonds, stonefruit (cherries, plums, walnuts) and vegetables on an area of more than 4,000 hectares, putting next season's harvest in jeopardy in many cases.

Thus, the economic value of the losses suffered by the producers amounts, according to estimates of the agrarian organization, to about 4 million Euro. The municipalities of Aras de los Olmos, Alpuente, La Yesa and Titaguas are among the most affected.

The unusual cold wave, with minimum temperatures ranging from -5.7 °C to -4 °C in two consecutive dawns, also aggravated the damages caused by drought on cereals in the area, especially those that were in a more advanced vegetative state, as was explained by AVA-ASAJA.

"If a few days ago we saw millionaire losses in Utiel-Requena due to the impact of hail, this week we have been hit by another climatic disaster in the neighbouring comarca of Los Serranos, with very unusual frosts for this time of the year," assured the president of AVA-ASAJA, Cristóbal Aguado.

Moreover, he added, "this coincides with the official announcement that the new insurance plan for 2017 includes a cut of 10 points in the base grant of all lines and in all crops; a decision that will entail an average price increase of 20% and, therefore, in growers being less protected by insurances."

**Lien article :** <http://www.freshplaza.com/article/174600/Spain-Frosts-affect-4,000-hectares-of-grapes,-almonds-and-fruit-in-Valencia>