

Germany: Stonefruit almost completely wiped out

In the nights from the 19th to the 20th as well as from the 20th to the 21st of April 2017, temperatures in the minus range up to -7°C were measured in Baden-Württemberg. Further sub-zero temperatures occurred on a regional basis in the night from the 23rd to 24th and from the 29th to 30th of April. Depending on the region, the fruit trees were in full bloom, or had already faded and were developing fruit. With berries, buds and first flowers were visible in raspberries and blackberries and the first small fruits were to be seen with gooseberries. Strawberries had also flowered. Massive frost damage occurred on buds, flowers, young fruits and also shoots and rods.

Contrary to frost damages in 2011, this year's frost did not only affect various regions, but the whole country suffered damage. A total of around 6,000 hectares of orchard in Baden-Württemberg was damaged. Even anti-freeze protection, which can only be applied to some of the surface as well as other frost protection measures did not lead to the desired success. Frost damage comparable to this occurred in 1981 and also in part in 1991.

Stone fruits almost completely wiped out

Stone fruits, including cherries, plums, apricots and peaches were almost completely destroyed, with a few regional exceptions. In pome fruit production, including pears and apples, the data differs from region to region with damages lying between 80 and 90 percent.

Plant protection should not be neglected

In spite of the expected extreme harvest losses in most fruit crops, the health of the plants is not to be neglected. This is particularly true of fungal diseases and weed control. The rods and tendrils of raspberries and blackberries and strawberries can be kept healthy by carrying out appropriate fungicide measures.

Shoot and leaf damage, as well as disease carrying pests such as aphids, spider mites or psyllids must be combated accordingly with insecticide or acaricide.

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