

## Poland: Fruit production expected to drop by 30-35% compared to 2016

This year, due to the impact of spring frosts, the fruit harvest from trees will be 30-35 percent lower than a year ago and amount to 2.6-2.8 million tonnes. Meanwhile, however, the vegetable production is estimated at 4.5 million tonnes, i.e. at the same level as last year.

The Central Statistical Office (CSO) reported that, in the current season, the frost wave recorded in May caused considerable damage in apple orchards of later varieties.

At the same time, in many parts of the country, the agrometeorological conditions were unfavourable for the production of good quality fruit. Not only did they favour the spread of pests and diseases, but there may also be lower yields and problems with the quality of the fruit.

The extent of the frost damage depends not only on the fruit species, but also on the variety, location and age of the plantation.

In September, the situation of Polish apple orchards and production was slightly better than expected in July. In general, due to the reduced number of fruits on the trees, these have grown better. However, the severity of diseases, among other reasons, could cause considerable losses in storage.

Depending on further conditions, the apple production is currently expected to reach 2.4-2.6 million tonnes (-30%). A decline of over 25% is also expected for the pear production, whose production volume is estimated at fewer than 60 thousand tonnes.

According to experts, this year's sour cherry and sweet cherry production volumes will be over 60 percent smaller than in 2016. The production of sour cherry orchards was estimated at over 70 thousand tonnes, while that of sweet cherries is expected to amount to over 20 thousand tonnes.

The plum production is estimated at about 60 thousand tonnes (-40%). The total production of other fruit species from trees (peaches, apricots and walnuts) was estimated at about 10 thousand tonnes (-50%).

The production of berries is expected to reach about 0.5 million tonnes (-15%). Damage caused by spring frosts contributed to a significant reduction in the yield of raspberries, blackcurrants and strawberries.

The CSO estimates that this year's strawberry production totalled about 177,000 tonnes (-10%). The raspberry harvest is estimated to be about 20% lower than last year's (over 100 thousand tonnes), while the blackcurrant production was estimated at 130,000 tonnes.

At the same time, this year's total vegetable crop production (early and late) is estimated at 4.5 million tonnes, which is close to the figure achieved in the previous year.

This year's cabbage production is estimated at about 1 million tonnes; that of cauliflower at 235 thousand tonnes; the onion production will amount to 655 thousand tonnes; that of carrots to over 810 thousand tonnes; the beetroot volume amounts to about 330 thousand tonnes; that of cucumbers to less than 245 thousand tonnes and that of tomatoes to over 250 thousand tonnes. The production volume of other vegetable species is expected to total 980 thousand tonnes.

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