

# Spain: Loss of Andalusian citrus due to rainfall and strong winds

The heavy rainfall and hurricane winds that have hit western Andalusia have caused losses to orange and late mandarin producers, especially in Seville and Huelva.

The excess of water has caused peel deterioration in Nadorcott, Tango and Orri mandarins, among others.

At the same time, strong gusts of winds, and even several tornadoes, have caused a lot of fruit to fall to the ground, making it impossible to harvest them or use them commercially.

Given this situation, some of the buyers are diverting their operations to other areas, waiting for the situation to normalise in this producing region.

## Production of citrus fruits in Andalusia

At a national level, the Andalusian orange production is estimated to represent 47% of the domestic production. For mandarins, the percentage stands at 18%, and for lemons, at 13%. Looking at individual provinces, Seville is the region's main citrus producer, with 792,576 tonnes and 39% of the Andalusian production, followed by Huelva, with 523,173 tonnes. Together, both provinces account for 65% of Andalusia's citrus production.

Seville is the main province when it comes to the production of sweet oranges, obtaining 47% of Andalusia's total production, followed by Huelva. As for mandarins, it ranks second, with 19% of the production. Although the province of Seville expects the orange production to fall by 6%, that of mandarins should increase considerably, by 19.2%. Even so, the total citrus production is expected to fall by 3.8%.

For its part, Huelva will be the main province when it comes to mandarin production, with 57% of the region's total volume, as well as the second largest producer of sweet oranges, with 21%. Forecasts point to a 7.1% drop in the sweet orange production and a slight 3.4% increase in the case of mandarins.

In the 2016/17 season, Andalusia's total production reached 2.07 million tonnes, and 18% of this production was exported. In recent years, the value of Andalusian citrus exports has maintained an

upward trend, standing at around 290 million Euro in the 2016/17 campaign, with more than 370,000 tonnes marketed.

Exports from Andalusia amounted to 275,000 tonnes (184 million Euro), which corresponded to 17.5% of the production obtained. Regarding mandarins, exports exceeded 50,000 tonnes (44 million Euro), which was 14.3% of the production. Lemon exports totalled 36,000 tonnes (50 million Euro); about 31.2% of the production.

The study also points to an upward trend in the value of the production, which reached a total of 868 million Euro in 2017.

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