

# Spain: Entire broccoli plantations damaged by fungal diseases

The excessive moisture caused by rainfall in the south west of the Peninsula has caused fungal diseases and bacteria, such as "alternaria" and "botrytis", to affect the broccoli production, making the product unusable for the fresh market.

"For 20 days, it has been raining almost daily," said Juan Marín, president of Proexport. Up to 300 litres per square metre have been registered in some of these areas.

The switch from rain to sunshine (and heat) has a negative impact on open ground crops, and it is an ideal situation for the proliferation of diseases.

"These circumstances result in the appearance of black spots, which become mould in a few days, so we cannot sell the product to supermarkets," lamented the entrepreneur.

In fact, two technicians who have been inspecting the crops grown in the Sevillian marshes have determined that between 60 and 70 hectares affected by the pests have to be abandoned.

Marín recalled that something similar happened to them during the drought of 2005-2009.

"Carrots and flowers are traditionally grown in this area, and we have tried to plant artichokes on about 100 hectares." The results were good in the first year, but in the second year, "the land did not yield anything, also because of excess rainfall and pests."

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