



Spain: Second stage of melon and watermelon planting hurt by storms

The frequent storms and rainfall of recent weeks are making the second stage of the melon and watermelon planting more difficult in the Spanish region of Castile-La Mancha. The bulk of the planting usually takes place between May and June.

This has been reported by the president of the Melon and Watermelon Interprofessional of Castile-La Mancha, Cristóbal Jiménez, after the celebration on Thursday of the entity's ordinary meeting at its headquarters in Manzanares.

As far as the acreage is concerned, he said that, based on unofficial estimates, it will likely be similar to that of the previous season. There should be a total of about 10,000 hectares, the majority in the province of Ciudad Real (5,800 hectares of melons and 2,500 hectares of watermelons). 70% of the acreage corresponds to melons (7,000 hectares) and the other 30% (3,000 hectares) to watermelons.

Market

Sales are also not too good either for the melons from Murcia and Almeria, since the intense rainfall has hindered the growth and ripening of both fruits.

Therefore, the sector hopes that the weather will stabilise and become more favourable for Manchegan melons, "... which are usually consumed during the hottest months of the year (between July and October), facing little to no competition in the national, European and world markets."

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