

China may exceed \$10 billion spent on imported fruits per year

China is increasing its imports of fruits, berries and nuts and may for the first time exceed the mark of \$ 10 billion per year.

According to EastFruit analysts, imports of fruits, nuts and berries to China in the first four months of 2019 rose to \$ 3.1 billion, exceeding last year's figure of imports for the same period by 26%.

As in the previous year, the main imported commodity in terms of value were sweet cherries. China spent almost \$ 0.9 billion on importing this fruits, which was 2% less than last year's record. The peak of cherry imports to China traditionally falls on the Chinese New Year, and about 99% of the total imports of cherries come from Chile.

In second place were imported exotic fruits: dragonfruit or pitaya, longan or dragon eye, lychee and rambutan. In four months, China spent \$ 330.2 million on this exotic - 6% more than a year earlier.

The third place in the ranking of imported fruits was occupied by table grapes, whose imports grew by 22%. For the first time, more than half of table grape imports came from Peru. In the second place among the suppliers was Australia and only in the third - Chile. South Africa, India, Egypt and the USA were also among the major suppliers of table grapes to China.

The fastest growing import was another exotic fruit - mangosteen. China spent \$160 million on mangosteen and mango in the reported period, and the lion's share of the costs fell on mangosteen, the import of these fruits increased by almost 600%.

Another fruit that is very rapidly growing in terms of imports is the durian. The Chinese simply love the durian - this delicious fruit with an





incredibly disgusting smell. For the first four months, durian imports to China increased 4.5 times and reached \$ 206 million.

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