

European Pome Fruit Crop Forecast

A Summary from the WAPA Report: August 2017

European forecast

According to the WAPA pome fruit crop estimate the EU apple production for 2017 will decrease by 21% compared to the previous year, corresponding to a production of 9.3 million tons. This production is 23% less than the average for the last three years. With regard to varieties, Golden Delicious production will be down by 18% with an estimated volume of 1.982 million tons. Gala will decrease with 3% to 1.276 million tons. Idared will be down by 30% at 679 000 tons and Red Delicious will decrease by 9% to 576 000 tons.

The forecasted European pear volumes will also decrease with 1% compared to the 2016 crop with 2.148 million tons expected. This is also 8% lower than the average pear crop for the last 3 years. In 2017 Conference is expected to decrease by 7% to 844 000 tons. Williams BC will also decrease with 6% to 247 000 tons whilst Abate Fetel will increase by 12% to reach 332 000 tons.

Extract from WAPA meeting (10 Aug 2017, Spain):

Apples: “A particular point of concern this year was the intense frost during blossoming, and the drought during spring and early summer. In other non-EU Northern Hemisphere countries, significant decreases were noted: Russia (-37%), Mexico (-30%), Switzerland (-21%), Belarus (-19%), Ukraine (-10%), and Canada (-5%), while the USA is expecting a stable crop around 4 800 000 tons. Additionally, China is expecting a further growth by 3% compared to last year’s crop of 43 800 000 tons.

More specifically about the EU apple market, it is to be reminded that over the last years the market suffered the consequences of the Russian embargo and were more recently confronted by lower export volumes to North African markets. The new crop could therefore lead to a better balance of the supply. The market will start clearing stocks for most varieties, with expected good hand over from the Southern Hemisphere.

Overall, the new season is due to start with two weeks earlier than average. There might be different market trends for each of the varieties, with better balance for Gala and more reduced volume for Golden, Jonagold, and Elstar. In the coming weeks, growers will closely monitor the quality, which could still influence the balance of the market between fruit destined for the fresh market and the fruit destined for processing. It is currently forecasted that ca 6 200 000 tons will be moving on the fresh market and 3 200 000 tons for processing.”

Pears: “In regard to the specifics, the pear market will be experiencing different trends between the Southern and Northern EU markets, reflected as well in higher volume of Abate and Rocha, while the Conference pear will be down. The pear season will start with less pressure than last year. There has been some positive development in the exports to new markets during the last years, but the effects of the Russian embargo will still be felt by the growers.”

