

Aragón: a cornucopia of fruit the year round



Aragón has 50,000 ha of fruit orchard (apple, pear, peach, apricot, cherry and plum) clustered in the traditional irrigated farming areas of the rivers Jalón and the lower Cinca, the La Litera farmland and the modern heights above the lower Ebro river in the Caspe-Mequineza area.

Over the past fifteen years, 15% more land has been given over to fruit trees in Aragón. All fruit species have increased, but the increase in peach and cherry output has been particularly notable.

The key crops in Huesca province are peach and nectarine, while peach is the main Teruel crop and Zaragoza is known for apple, peach and pear. Aragón's annual fruit output is on the rise, chiefly because of increased yield and improved technology.

The Aragonese fruit harvest makes for a sizable proportion of the national total. The surface area given over to sweet fruit growing in Aragón accounts for one fifth of the total for Spain. The contribution to output is similar. Aragón grows 30% of all Spanish peaches and 23% of apples. It also concentrates 30% of the country's cherry crop.

The region grows vegetables on 7,000 ha of land, almost all of which is under irrigation. Output exceeds 225,000 tonnes. Most of the area under cultivation is occupied by pea, tomato, potato, onion, peppers, runner bean and other crops like asparagus and cauliflower.

Irrigated crops in Aragón start to be harvested in March to April (cherry, apricot, peach and nectarine); the picking season ends in October/November, with bagged Calanda peaches. Melocotón de Calanda peaches of the Amarillo Tardío variety are grown in the southeast area of the Ebro basin, straddling Teruel and Zaragoza provinces.

A very wide variety of fresh vegetables are also grown in the region, so Aragonese consumers have seasonal fruit and vegetables available all the year round.

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