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Report Name: Overview on the German Cherry Sector - 2025

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Report Highlights:

Germany is the third-largest importer of sweet and sour cherries in the world. Between 52 and 77 percent of cherries consumed in Germany are imported, mostly from other EU member states. The German Federal Office of Statistics estimates cherry production for MY 2025/26 (April/March) at 49,900 MT. Opportunities for U.S. sweet cherries are best in August/September, after the German domestic growing season.

Executive Summary

Germany is the third-largest importer of fresh cherries in the world after China/Hong Kong and Russia. From 2015 to 2024, between 55 and 77 percent of the cherries consumed in Germany were imported, with most imports originating in other EU member states. The largest non-EU cherry suppliers are Türkiye for sweet cherries and Serbia for sour cherries. In marketing year (MY)[1] 2025/26, lower imports from Türkiye are replaced by higher imports from Spain. Opportunities for fresh U.S. sweet cherries are best in August or September, after the German domestic growing season. German cherry area is slowly decreasing due to increasing production costs (especially labor) and competition from other EU member states: notably Poland and Hungary for tart cherries and Spain for sweet cherries. German cherry production for MY 2025/26 is estimated at 49,900 MT. This is a 41 percent increase compared to the very low production in the preceding year and 10 percent higher than the ten-year (2015-2024) average. The rebound in production is largely a result of favorable weather conditions during pollination. Processing of cherries into dried fruit is not common in Germany. Demand for dried cherries is met with imports.

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Abbreviations and definitions used in this report

AMI	Agrarmarkt Informations-Gesellschaft mbH, a German market information company (https://www.ami-informiert.de/ami-english/ami-about-us/about-us)
Destatis	German Federal Office of Statistics
EU	European Union, "EU" in this report refers to EU27
Ha	hectare; 1 ha = 2.471 acres
MT	Metric ton = 1,000 kg
MY	Marketing year (for cherries: April -March)
TDM	Trade Data Monitor, LLC. www.TradeDataMonitor.com

[1] Marketing year 2025/26 corresponds to April 2025 through March 2026,

I. Area

In MY 2024/25, the harvested area for sweet and sour cherries is expected to amount to 5,666 ha and 1,504 ha, respectively. Germany is more competitive in sweet cherries than in sour. Most of the sweet cherry production is for fresh consumption and consumers are willing to pay a premium for locally produced cherries. In contrast, most sour cherries are destined for processing.

When farmers plant new sweet cherry orchards, they increasingly use shielded production. It requires higher investment but offers protection against rain and enables the farmer to use predators as a pest management tool. According to local press, investment costs exceed 100,000 Euro per ha (roughly USD[2] 46,900 per acre).[3] Popular varieties include *Bellise*, *Burlat*, *Kordia*, and *Regina* for sweet cherries and *Schattenmorelle* and *Morellenfeuer* for sour cherries.

The results of the latest German deciduous fruit tree census from 2022 showed that cherry area decreased 9 percent compared to 2017.[4] However, the decrease in tart cherries (20 percent) was much more pronounced than for sweet cherries (5.4 percent). This is a result of strong competition from other EU member states. According to German industry sources, other EU member states such as Hungary and Poland have lower production costs and are more competitive in tart cherry production than German producers. Additionally, Germany has become the number one export market for increasingly productive Spanish orchards.

In addition to a general increase in production costs, German have farmers faced higher labor costs resulting from minimum wage hikes. From January 1, 2021, to January 1, 2025, the minimum wage (which also applies to seasonal labor) increased in seven installments from 9.50 Euro to 12.82 Euro per hour. With current conversion rates this translates into USD 11.01 and 14.87, respectively. For 2026 and 2027, it is set to further increase to 13.90 and 14.60 Euro (USD 16.12 and 16.93) per hour respectively.

Another challenge is the lack of effective control measures against the spotted wing drosophila (*drosophila suzukii*), an invasive pest that infests the fruit shortly before ripening.

II. Production

Based on crop assessments carried out in June 2025, the German Federal Office of Statistics (*destatis*) estimates German cherry production for MY 2025/26 at approximately 41,900 MT.[5] If this materializes, it would be a 41 percent increase compared to the very low production of the preceding year and 10 percent higher than the ten-year (2015-2024) average. This is largely a result of favorable weather conditions at time of pollination and the absence of late spring frosts and heavy rain. Sweet cherry production is estimated at 38,170 MT and sour cherries at 11,730 MT. In MY 2024/25, production

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[2] 1 Euro = 1,16 USD (July 18, 2025)
[3] LWK: Schöne, süße Kirschen von bester Qualität erwartet | Article | Fruitnet (German language)
[4] The census is carried out every five years. For more information please refer to our report Results of the German Fruit Tree Census 2022
[5] https://www.destatis.de/DE/Presse/Pressemitteilungen/2025/06/PD25_230_412.html
Published on June 27, 2025, and based on a crop on June 10, 2025

amounted to 35,373 MT, including 27,894 MT of sweet cherries and 7,479 MT of sour cherries. This is substantially lower than forecast a year ago and the result of summer thunderstorms with heavy rain and hail that damaged the crop right before the harvest.

Figure 1: Sweet and Sour Cherry Area in Germany by Year (in ha)

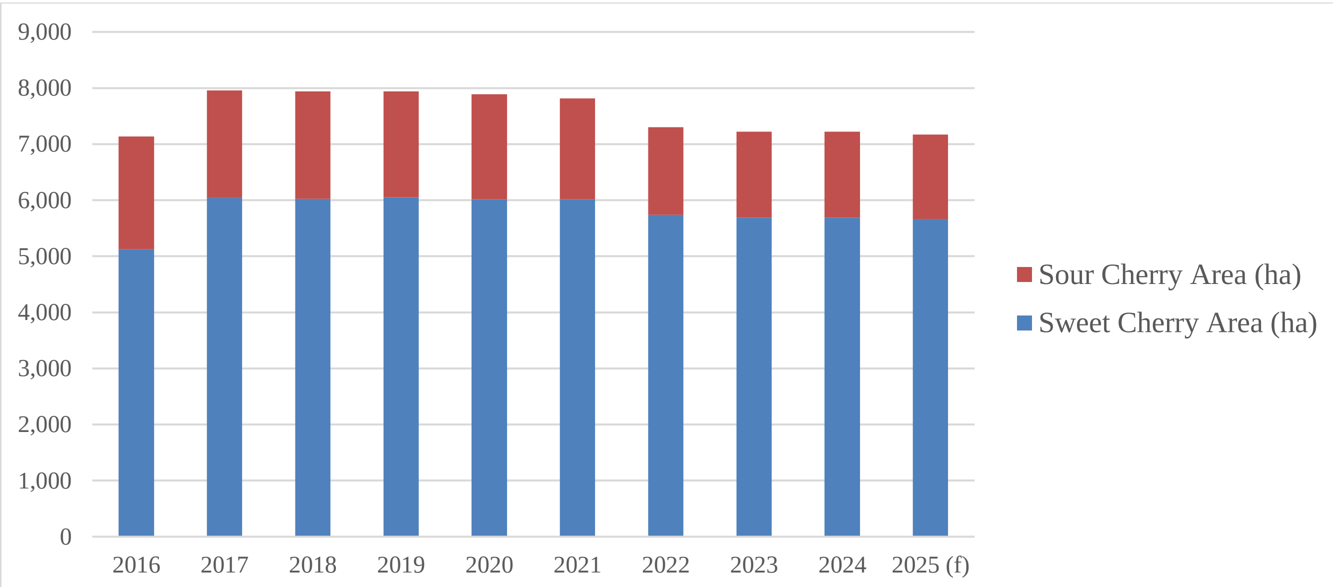
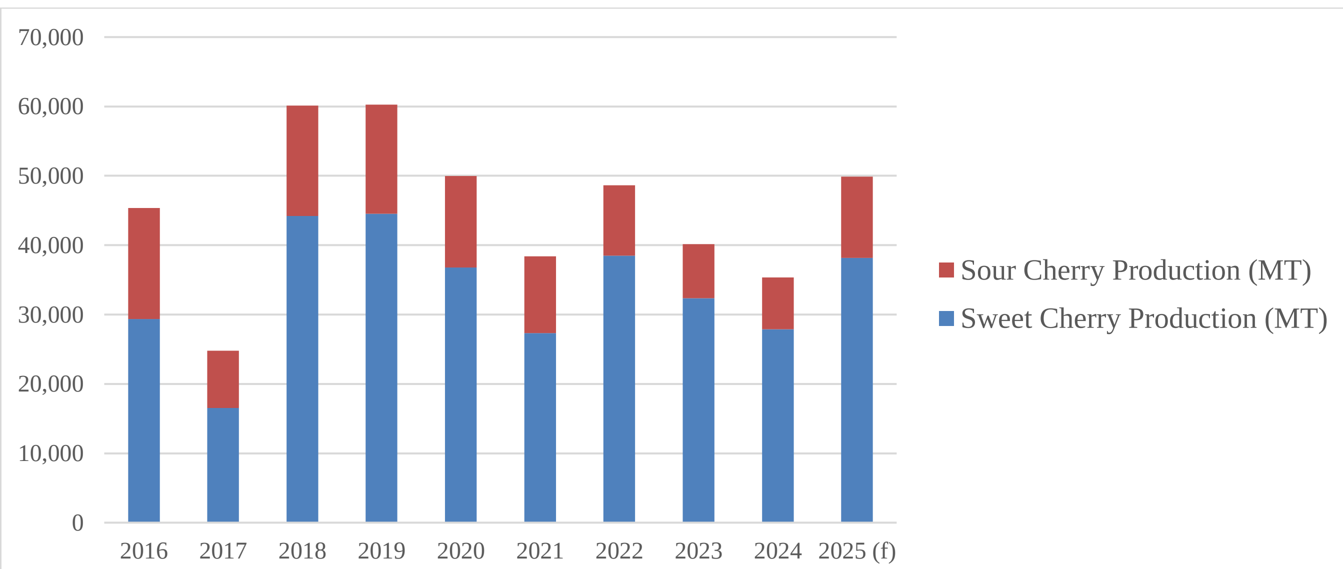


Figure 2: Sweet and Sour Cherry Production in Germany by Year (in MT)



Source: FAS Berlin; Data from German Federal Office of Statistics (destatis)[6],(f) = FAS Berlin forecast

[6] https://www-genesis.destatis.de/genesis/online?sequenz=statistikTabellen&selectionname=41243#abreadcrumb

IV. Trade

Germany is the third largest importer of cherries in the world after China/Hong Kong and Russia. From 2015 to 2024, between 54 and 77 percent of the cherries consumed in Germany were imported, with imports varying between 51,000 and 75,000 MT annually. The majority consisted of sweet cherries, with sweet cherries accounting for between 66 and 81 percent of total cherry imports. Türkiye is by far Germany's largest supplier with a share of 36 percent of the total import market and 46 percent of sweet cherries in MY 2024/25. Spain's market share has increased to the second largest supplier. Hungary, Poland, and Serbia are the largest suppliers of sour cherries. Market sources expect imports from Türkiye to substantially decrease this season as Türkiye's cherry production was halved by late frost damage in April. The void is partially being filled by increased domestic production but also by higher imports from Spain.

Imports from the United States remain small. Opportunities for U.S. sweet cherries are best at either the end of the German domestic production cycle, i.e., the end of May/beginning of June and August/September. Of the two periods, the latter is more promising as there is less competition from cheaper Turkish cherries. In recent years, U.S. cherry exports to Germany were mostly transshipped via other EU member states, mainly the Netherlands. Direct imports from the United States are rare. They last occurred in MY 2023/24 and amounted to only three MT.

Table 1: German Cherry Imports (Sweet and Sour) by Origin and Marketing Year (MT)

	Marketing Year (April/March)				
	2020/21	**2021/22**	**2022/23**	**2023/24**	**2024/25**
World	**75,469**	**69,365**	**52,903**	**51,034**	**52,100**
Intra EU-27	43,995	43,752	38,450	28,905	31,173
Extra EU-27	31,474	25,613	14,453	22,130	20,927
Türkiye	29,189	23,307	12,432	20,511	18,674
Spain	3,773	7,403	6,936	6,013	8,338
Greece	10,607	9,498	10,345	5,990	6,886
Hungary	8,318	7,207	7,462	4,557	4,926
Netherlands	1,456	1,535	2,157	5,205	4,297
Poland	13,555	7,846	3,297	3,196	2,626
Italy	3,177	6,462	5,544	2,555	2,490
Serbia	1,803	1,205	1,514	1,273	1,593
Czechia	2,429	2,497	1,417	582	1,063
Other	1,162	2,405	1,799	1,152	1,207

Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC. (TDM), based on German customs data, MY 2024/25 = April 2024- March 2025

Table 2: German Sweet Cherry Imports by Origin and MY (MT)

	Marketing Year (April/March)				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
World	**49,563**	**49,080**	**38,748**	**41,433**	**40,568**
Intra EU-27	20,107	25,099	25,990	20,692	21,413
Extra EU-27	29,456	23,981	12,758	20,742	19,155
Türkiye	29,184	23,289	12,432	20,496	18,645
Spain	3,633	6,864	6,306	5,626	7,625
Greece	10,580	9,473	10,318	5,987	6,885
Netherlands	1,214	1,282	1,952	5,044	4,161
Italy	2,765	6,445	5,534	2,543	2,385
South Africa	1	26	28	15	176
Poland	41	706	278	286	156
Chile	122	325	121	113	118
Hungary	1,431	27	585	848	1
Other	592	643	1,194	475	416

Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC. (TDM), based on German customs data, MY 2024/25 = April 2024- March 2025

Table 3: German Sour Cherry Imports by Origin and MY (MT)

	Marketing Year (April/March)				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
World	**25,906**	**20,285**	**14,155**	**9,601**	**11,532**
Intra EU-27	23,889	18,653	12,460	8,213	9,760
Extra EU-27	2,018	1,632	1,695	1,388	1,772
Hungary	6,888	7,179	6,877	3,709	4,925
Poland	13,514	7,140	3,019	2,910	2,470
Serbia	1,803	1,188	1,494	1,271	1,593
Czechia	2,429	2,482	1,352	572	1,063
Spain	140	539	630	387	713
France	174	22	45	0	241
North Macedonia	200	425	200	100	150
Netherlands	243	254	205	161	136
Other	515	1,056	333	491	241

Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC. (TDM), based on German customs data, MY 2024/25 = April 2024- March 2025

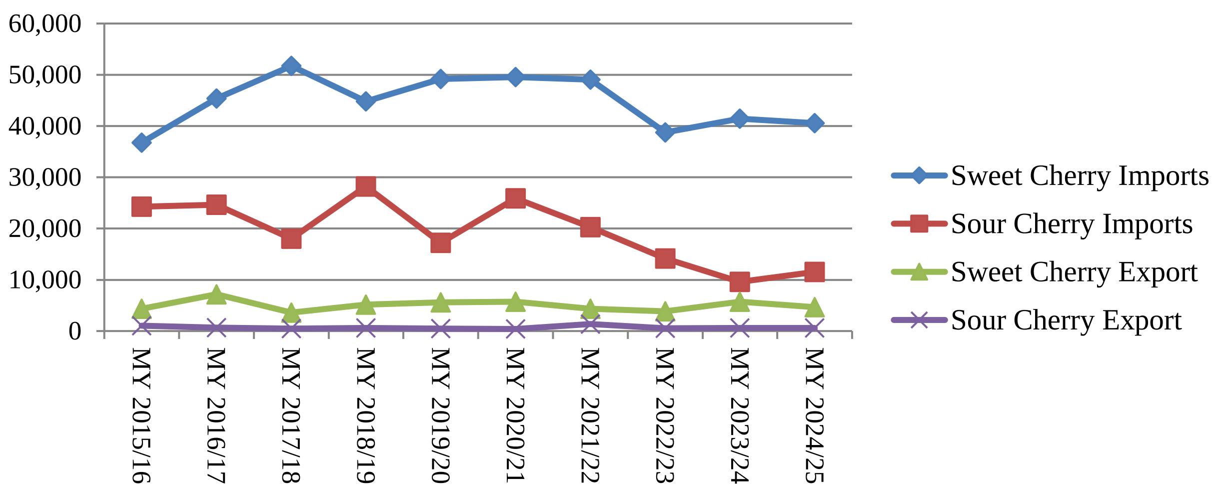
Germany exports less than ten percent of its total cherry supply, between 4,000 to 6,400 MT in recent years. Export destinations are almost entirely other EU member states, such as the Netherlands, Austria, Denmark, and Sweden. The largest and almost exclusive extra-EU destination for German cherries is Switzerland.

Table 4: German Cherry Exports by Destination and MY (MT)

	Marketing Year (April/March)				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
World	6,111	5,702	4,415	6,357	5,311
Intra EU-27	5,349	5,266	3,286	4,838	4,477
Extra EU-27	762	436	1,129	1,518	833
Austria	1,274	1,533	638	895	838
Switzerland	709	434	1,129	1,493	785
Denmark	783	453	342	760	749
Spain	98	23	115	283	647
Netherlands	821	1,003	666	556	516
Finland	396	441	409	246	450
Sweden	800	443	104	416	402
France	438	662	279	397	253
Poland	61	31	260	663	241
Italy	176	492	301	311	180
Other	555	187	172	337	250

Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC. (TDM), based on German customs data, MY 2024/25 = April 2024- March 2025

Figure 3: German Cherry Trade by Year (in MT)



Source: FAS Berlin; Data from Trade Data Monitor, LLC. (TDM)

V. Consumption

In Germany, fresh cherries are considered a seasonal product and stocked in supermarkets mainly during the German marketing season (June/July). According to German market information company Agrarmarkt Informations-Gesellschaft mbH (AMI), in 2022, 92.5 percent of private household purchases of sweet cherries occurred in June and July, and 5.2 percent in August.[7] In contrast, purchases of peaches, which are rarely grown in Germany, are more evenly distributed between May and October. This seasonal availability explains the lower per capita consumption of cherries (2.2 kg) compared to peaches (2.8 kg).[8] Per capita consumption of cherries is more than twice as high as for plums (1.0 kg). In recent years, sweet cherries have become a trend-item that has benefitted from increased health consciousness and the growing popularity of snacking. In contrast, plums are mostly used for baking and cooking.

For sweet cherries, consumer preferences clearly trend toward larger sizes (>26 mm/1.024 inches). Smaller cherries sell at a large discount. For example, in the week of July 7, 2025, the average wholesale price for domestic sweet cherries amounted to 6.53 Euro (USD 7.57) per kg for larger cherries but only 4.19 Euro (USD 4.86) per kg for cherries smaller than 26 mm.[9]

Demand for fresh sour cherries is steadily decreasing, as the popularity of the traditional sour cherry fruit tart is dwindling. In MY 2024/25, 87 percent of domestically produced sour cherries went into processing, mainly for canning or freezing (over 70 percent), while the remainder is used in juice production. The percentage of sweet cherries used for processing fluctuated between 24 and 40 percent over the past ten years. This share depends on the weather during harvest, as rain damage increases the percentage that goes into canning or distilling into spirits. Processing of cherries into dried fruit is not common in Germany. The small demand for dried cherries is met with imports. Due to lack of a product specific HS code, data on dried cherry trade is not available.

[7] AMI Marktbilanz Obst 2023, p. 114, table 7.16
[8] AMI Marktbilanz Obst 2023, p. 109, table 7.5
[9] BLE Marktbericht Obst, Gemuese, Suedfruchte KW 28/2025, page 2 of the annex https://www.bmel-statistik.de/preise/obst-und-gemuese/

VI. Marketing

Trade Fairs

Trade fairs play a key role in presenting new products to the trade or in finding additional buyers and importers. The most important trade shows related to the fruit and vegetable sectors are:

FRUIT LOGISTICA Berlin, Germany (Interval: yearly) Target Market: Germany/EU/Central & Eastern Europe FRUIT LOGISTICA is the leading European trade show for fresh and dried fruit, nuts, and related products. More than 2,400 companies from across the entire fresh produce value chain will participate, including major global players, as well as small and medium-sized suppliers from around the world. https://www.fruitlogistica.de/en/	Next Fair: February 4-6, 2026

BIOFACH Nuremberg, Germany (Interval: yearly) Target Market: Germany/Europe Biofach is the leading European trade show for organic food and non-food products. http://www.biofach.de/en	Next Fair: February 10-13, 2026

Conferences

The following conference provides good opportunities to learn more about the German/EU market and production as well as for connecting with key market players.

German Fruit and Vegetable Congress (Deutscher Obst & Gemuese Kongress, DOGK)

The German Fruit and Vegetable Congress (Deutscher Obst & Gemuese Kongress, DOGK) is a one-day event with presentation and networking opportunities more specific to the German market. It is preceded by an optional field trip and held annually in Duesseldorf. Simultaneous translation into English is provided.

Next edition: September 22/23, 2025, in Duesseldorf/Germany

For more information please see: DOGK - der Deutsche Obst und Gemüse Kongress.

VII. Policy

Germany is a member of the European Union and generally follows EU directives and regulations, including those relating to the importation of food products. Please refer to the EU Stone Fruit Annual Report available in the GAIN report database at [Search | Global Agricultural Information Network (usda.gov)](#).

VIII. Post Contact

For more information, please contact:

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Office of Agricultural Affairs
Clayallee 170
14191 Berlin, Germany
E-mail: agberlin(at)usda.gov

IX. Related reports:

These and other reports can be accessed through the FAS GAIN reports database at https://gain.fas.usda.gov/#/search.

Exporter Guide Annual | GM2025-0013Berlin | Germany Published On: June 30, 2025 Germany has almost 84 million of the world's wealthiest consumers and is by far the biggest market in the European Union. The German market offers good opportunities for U.S. exporters of consumer-oriented agricultural products. In 2024, total U.S. exports of agricultural and related products to Germany reached almost USD 2.7 billion. The largest segments were – apart from soybeans – tree nuts, distilled spirits, seafood products, food preparations, and wine. This report provides U.S. exporters with background information and suggestions for entering the German market. Exporter Guide Annual_Berlin_Germany_GM2025-0013
FAIRS Country Report Annual | GM2025-0004Berlin | Germany Published On: April 29, 2025 Germany is a member of the European Union (EU) and generally follows EU directives and regulations, including those relating to the importation of food products. This report provides an overview of food laws in force in Germany that cover topics not yet harmonized. Food laws currently in force in the EU are summarized in the EU FAIRS report. FAIRS Country Report Annual_Berlin_Germany_GM2025-0004

FAIRS Export Certificate Report Annual | GM2024-0002Berlin | Germany Published On: April 19, 2024 This report provides Germany specific information that complements the EU-27 FAIRS Export Certificate Annual Report, which covers the harmonized EU certificate requirements. FAIRS Export Certificate Report Annual_Berlin_Germany_GM2024-0002
Retail Foods Annual | GM2024-0009Berlin | Germany Published On: October 11, 2024 Germany is the largest market for food and beverages in the European Union importing USD 69 billion worth of consumer-oriented agricultural products in 2023. The food retail sector is saturated, highly consolidated, and competitive. There is good sales potential in Germany for U.S. exporters of beef, nuts, fish and seafood products, beer and wine, and food preparations. The German Farmers Union (DBV) estimates that 80 to 90 percent of consumed products in Germany are consumer-oriented processed products. The war in Ukraine raised prices for energy, feed, and fertilizer, and subsequently groceries. As a result, many German consumers have cut back spending on both essential and non-essential products. Retail Foods Annual_Berlin_Germany_GM2024-0009
Stone Fruit Annual | E42024-0025Madrid | European Union Published On: August 29, 2024 In MY 2024/25, EU production of stone fruits (peaches and nectarines, and cherries) is estimated to exceed last season's levels. Favorable conditions across many growing Member States support a production recovery, which is projected to allow for both larger exports and domestic consumption. Stone Fruit Annual_Madrid_European Union_E42024-0025
Results of the German Fruit Tree Census 2022 | GM2022-0033Berlin | Germany Published On: October 25, 2022 This report summarizes the results of the 2022 German deciduous and stone fruit tree census and focuses on developments in the planted varieties of apples and pears. Since the 2017 census, total planted area decreased by 1.45 percent, and 9.2 percent of German fruit farms ended operations. Apples continue to be the most planted fruit trees and account for 67 percent of total fruit tree area, followed by sweet cherries, plums, and pears. The area planted with tree nuts is negligible but growing. Results of the German Fruit Tree Census 2022_Berlin_Germany_GM2022-0033

Attachments:

No Attachments.