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Report Name: Stone Fruit Annual

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Post: Taipei

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Report Highlights:

Taiwan is a mature import market for stone fruits, producing only peaches but not nectarines or cherries. The supply of nectarines and cherries relies entirely on imports. In 2025, Taiwan's peach production is expected to reach 17,000 tons, with an increasing share of low-chill varieties. Because of higher domestic production and increased nectarine imports during the winter, total consumption in 2025 is projected to reach 31,500 tons. Taiwan's cherries are primarily supplied by Chile in the winter and the United States in the summer. Winter demand, driven by Lunar New Year gift-giving traditions, pushed MY 2024/2025 imports to a ten-year high of 15,568 tons. In 2025, stable U.S. production with high quality is expected to boost summer consumption. Although the 2026 Lunar New Year will coincide with the end of Chile's cherry season, overall MY2025/2026 cherry consumption is still anticipated to reach 16,500 tons.

Peaches

Production

Taiwan produces only peaches, not nectarines. Overall, the scale of Taiwan's peach industry is currently stable, with the planting area remaining around 1,900 hectares. Some new low-chill varieties have started bearing fruit in recent years, and it will be necessary to observe market acceptance to determine whether the planting area will increase. Because of the relatively stable climate this year, the expected production should return to 17,000 tons.

The main production areas are in Taichung City (highland areas like Heping District, foothill areas like Xinshe and Dongshi Districts), Taoyuan City (highlands in Fuxing District), and Hsinchu County (highlands in Jianshi Township). However, due to extreme weather, policy and environment issues, it is expected that the area in foothill regions will gradually increase while cultivation in highland areas will decrease. Taiwan's peaches can generally be divided into two seasons: low-chill peaches from the foothill are harvested from May to June, and high-chill mountain peaches are harvested from July to early September. The market share of low-chill peaches continues to increase, while high-altitude peaches are expected to decline due to transportation challenges and the shift to cultivating other crops. Because of typhoons and heavy rains at the end of last season, high-chill mountain peaches were damaged, which has resulted in a downward revision of the 2024 production to 16,118 tons.

Over the past few years, increasingly hot weather has caused irregular flowering periods for high-chill peaches, earlier fruit ripening due to extreme high temperature, and smaller fruit due to water shortage, which has resulted in lower average quality compared to a decade ago.

Recent observations indicate that under the influence of recent extreme weather patterns, Taiwan's rainfall patterns have already changed. The production of peaches in the future will face greater challenges, with average fruit size continuing to decrease. At present, common sizes in the market range approximately from 150 to 250 grams per fruit.

The renewal of peach varieties mainly depends on government agricultural research stations. Several low-chill variety candidates such as nectarines, donut peaches, and peaches are under evaluation. However, due to Taiwan's shrinking peach market and the variety of options available, predicting future mainstream varieties is increasingly difficult.

Consumption and Trade

It is anticipated that peach and nectarine consumption in 2025 will reach 31,500 metric tons (MT), primarily driven by increased imports of nectarines during the winter season. Additionally, based on the current summer conditions, both domestic and U.S. peaches are expected to be of high quality with strong yields, contributing to the overall rise in consumption.

Low-chill peaches produced in central Taiwan are typically sold through wholesale auctions, while peaches from other regions are typically sold directly by farmers. Traditionally, high-mountain peaches from the Central Cross-Island Highway were heavily reliant on tourist purchases. However, due to poor road conditions and the difficulty of shipping high-altitude peaches, consumer demand has declined.

The United States remains the primary supplier of import peaches, holding a 90 percent market share in 2024. Although U.S. peach imports rebounded to 6,066 tons in 2024 due to good production and quality, this still marks the second-lowest import volume in the past decade. Over the last ten years, peach import volumes have exhibited a gradual downward trend.

Taiwanese consumers prefer peaches with high water content, while nectarines are less favored due to their relatively weaker aroma and texture, leading to a gradual decline in public acceptance. Over the past few years, nectarine imports have hovered around 7,000 metric tons. However, with increased imports of nectarines from Chile this past winter, it is expected that nectarine imports in 2025 could rise to 7,500 metric tons.

Prior to 2016, the United States was the primary supplier of nectarines, but its supply has steadily declined over the years. Last year, the U.S. supplied only 1,059 metric tons, marking the third-lowest volume in the past decade. At present, Chile serves as the main supplier of nectarines (81 percent) during the winter season.

Taiwan's annual fruit production and import volumes (prices) remain relatively stable. However, peaches are not typically considered an essential daily fruit, particularly during summer when alternatives such as papaya, pineapple, guava, dragon fruit, mango, and avocado are widely available in Taiwan.



Local high-chill peach (photo credit: Wuling Farm Facebook fan page)



California donut peach and Washington Cherry in hypermarket (photo credit: Author)

Peach Market Share by Volume Unit: MT with and percent market share

Country \ Year	2018	2020	2022	2023	2024
United States	7,589 (97 %)	7,281 (96 %)	6,080 (93 %)	4,441 (87 %)	6,066 (90%)
Japan	245 (3 %)	285 (3 %)	396 (6 %)	362 (7 %)	411 (6%)
Chile	6	14	26	284	226
New Zealand	12	11	-	-	5
Australia	-	6	15	-	-
Total	7,851	7,597	6,517	5,087	6,708

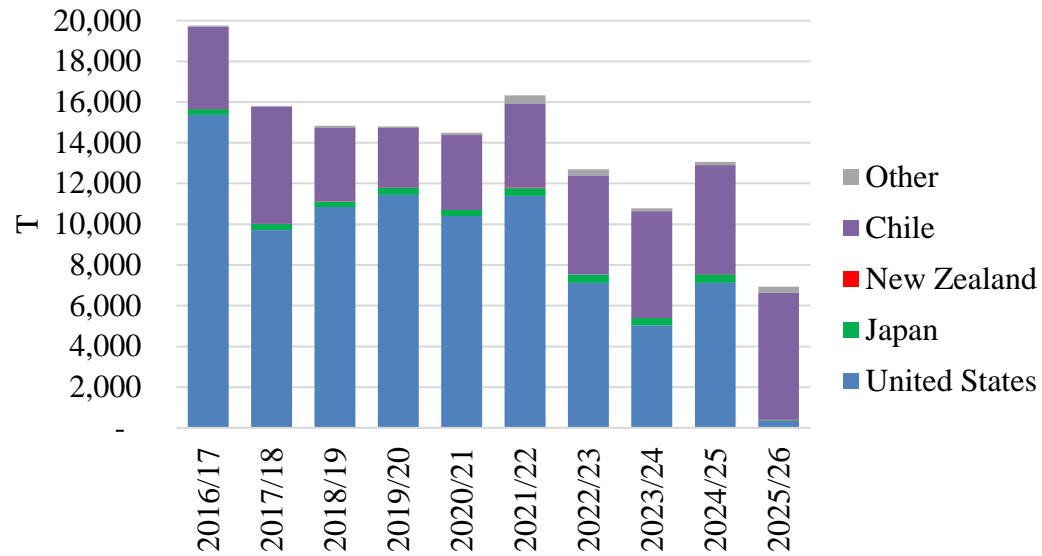
Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Taiwan

Nectarine Market Share by Volume Unit: MT and percent market share

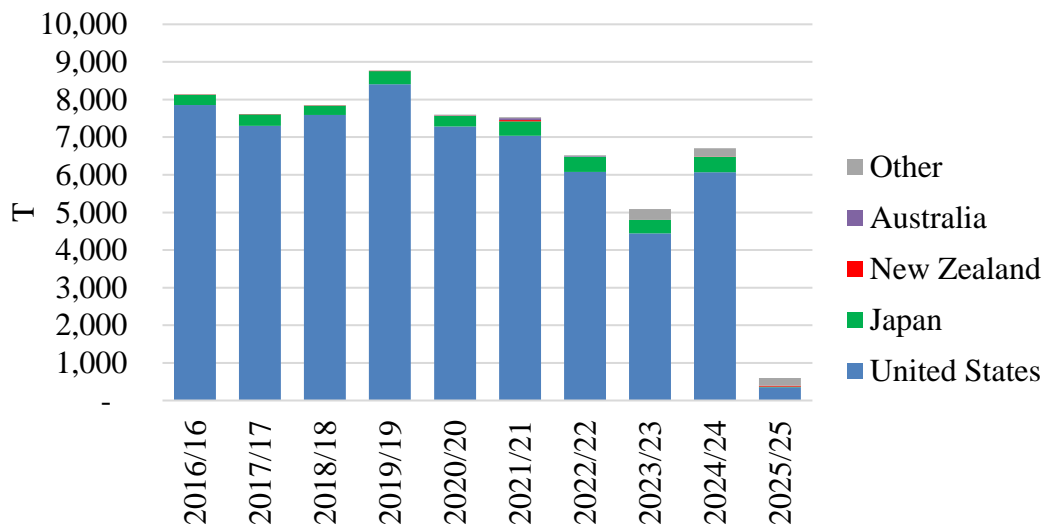
Country \ Year	2018	2020	2022	2023	2024
United States	3,267 (47 %)	3,131 (45 %)	1048 (17 %)	583 (10 %)	1,059 (17.5)
Chile	3644 (52%)	2665 (39%)	4857 (79 %)	4971 (87%)	5,143 (81%)
Australia	81	91	271	135	145
New Zealand	6	0	-	-	-
Total	6,998	6,888	6,176	5,689	6,347

Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Taiwan

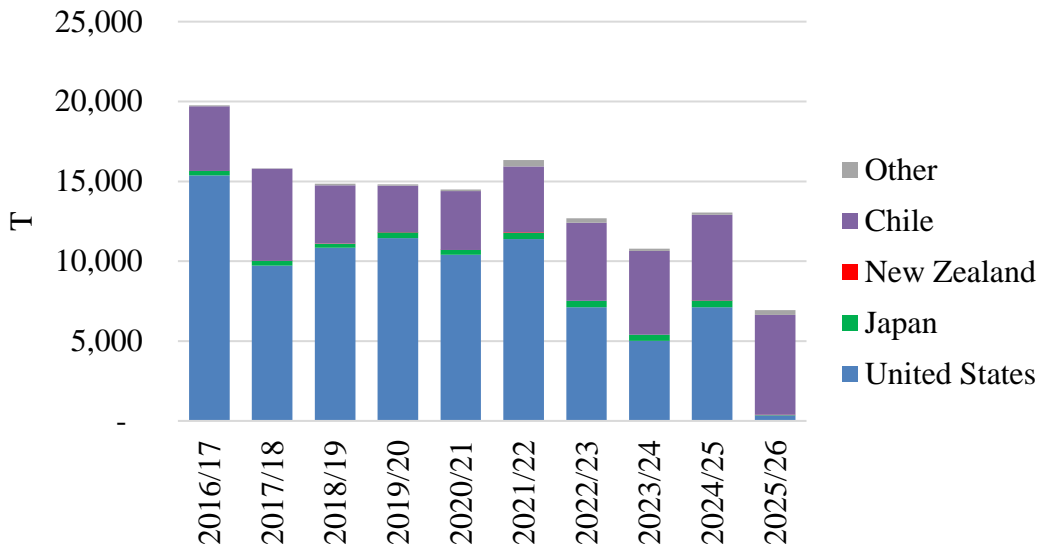
Taiwan Peach and Nectarine Import by Volume



Taiwan Peach Import by Volume



Taiwan Nectarine Import by Volume



Data source: TDM & Ministry of Agriculture, Taiwan

Peaches & Nectarines, Fresh	2023/2024		2024/2025		2025/2026	
Market Year Begins	Jan 2023		Jan 2024		Jan 2025	
Taiwan	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (HA)	1939	1939	1930	1963	0	1970
Area Harvested (HA)	1914	1914	1925	1932	0	1938
Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	677	677	675	684	0	687
Non-Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	10	10	8	12	0	10
Total Trees (1000 TREES)	687	687	683	696	0	697
Commercial Production (MT)	17302	17302	16800	16117	0	17000
Non-Comm. Production (MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production (MT)	17302	17302	16800	16117	0	17000
Imports (MT)	10800	10800	11000	13055	0	14500
Total Supply (MT)	28102	28102	27800	29172	0	31500
Domestic Consumption (MT)	28102	28102	27800	29172	0	31500
Exports (MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Withdrawal From Market (MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution (MT)	28102	28102	27800	29172	0	31500
(HA) ,(1000 TREES) ,(MT)						
OFFICIAL DATA CAN BE ACCESSED AT: PSD Online Advanced Query						

Cherries

Production

Taiwan does not produce cherries because its subtropical climate is not favorable for cherry production. Local demand relies entirely on imports.

Consumption and Trade

Taiwan's cherry consumption market is relatively mature and stable. The main suppliers of cherries to Taiwan are the United States, Chile, and New Zealand. Over the past few years, the production period of cherries from Chile has coincided with Taiwan's Lunar New Year holiday, driving up winter demand due to the gift-giving tradition. The import volume for 2024/2025 reached a ten-year high of 15,568 tons. Taiwan is the fourth largest export market for U.S. cherries, accounting for about eight percent of U.S. cherry exports annually. Taiwan is also the fourth largest export market for Chilean cherries, but it only accounts for one percent of Chile's annual cherry exports.

The consumption (import) volume for 2025/2026 is expected to reach 16,500 tons, mainly due to the anticipated increase in production, high quality, favorable exchange rate, and early season start of cherries from the United States. However, since the Lunar New Year will be later next year (late February compared to January this year), it will coincide with the end of the Chilean cherry import season, so winter demand is expected to be similar to this year. However, looking at the trends over the past few years, summer demand has remained stable, while winter demand has increased. Although Taiwan is considered a mature market, Post estimates that overall consumption will still experience slight growth within the next five years.

Because of several pesticide residue violations last year, U.S. cherries remain on the Taiwan Food and Drug Administration's enhanced border inspection list. However, since the main pesticide causing the violations (Mefentrifluconazole) had its MRL established last year, we do not expect a significant number of violations this year. According to regulations, the inspection rate for items subject to enhanced border inspection is set at 20-50%. However, since fewer violations are expected this year, the overall sampling rate is likely to be closer to 20 percent. Additionally, although Taiwan opened its market to Turkish cherries a few years ago, there have been no import records to date. Thus, the United States remains the main supplier during the summer season.



California cherry in Taiwan (variety: Carol) (Photo credit: author)

Taiwan Cherry Import by Volume



Data source: TDM

Cherries (Sweet&Sour), Fresh	2023/2024		2024/2025		2025/2026	
Market Year Begins	Apr 2023		Apr 2024		Apr 2025	
Taiwan	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (HA)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Area Harvested (HA)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Trees (1000 TREES)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Commercial Production (MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Comm. Production (MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production (MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Imports (MT)	12300	12300	12000	15568	0	16500
Total Supply (MT)	12300	12300	12000	15568	0	16500
Domestic Consumption (MT)	12300	12300	12000	15568	0	16500
Exports (MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Withdrawal From Market (MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution (MT)	12300	12300	12000	15568	0	16500
(HA) ,(1000 TREES) ,(MT)						
OFFICIAL DATA CAN BE ACCESSED AT: PSD Online Advanced Query						

Peaches, Nectarines, and Fresh Cherry Policy

Fruit imports are regulated by the Taiwan Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) under the Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Agency (APHIA) under MOA. TFDA is responsible for food safety inspection, while APHIA oversees animal and plant health, pests, diseases, and quarantine.

Fresh fruit exported to Taiwan from the United States must be accompanied by an APHIS-issued phytosanitary certificate (PPQ Form 577). A phytosanitary certificate can be issued by designated APHIS personnel or APHIS-authorized State and County cooperators. Other phytosanitary certificates for shipments of U.S.-origin fresh fruit are no longer accepted by Taiwan plant health regulatory authorities.

TFDA is the competent authority responsible for border food safety inspections. TFDA regularly inspects shipments at the port and closely monitors food products for pesticide and heavy metal residues. TFDA's regulation "[Pesticide Residue Limits in Food](#)" and "[Sanitation Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food](#)" list allowable tolerance including pesticide residue and heavy metal. Taiwan adopts a positive MRL list. As cherries and peaches are not major crops in Taiwan, it is suggested that exporters or producer groups address the pesticide application trends and encourage pesticide manufacturers to apply for pesticide import tolerances with TFDA to minimize trade barriers. The application process typically takes two to three years to complete.

If a perishable product is selected for testing, the importer can apply for a special dispensation from TFDA to have the products temporarily released to the importer's warehouse. In the event of a detection, clearing quarantine at the importer's warehouse can greatly reduce import costs. The cargo cannot enter commerce until it has cleared quarantine by passing all required tests. Noncompliance with Taiwan standards will result in the product being refused entry, ordered for re-export, or destruction.

HS Code	item	Major exporter	General Tariff rate	Import regulation*
0809.29.00	Other Cherries, fresh	United States /Chile	7.5 %	B01/F01
0809.30.00.10.5	Fresh peaches	United States	20 %	B01/F01/MW0
0809.30.00.20.3	Fresh nectarine	United States/ Chile	20 %	B01/F01/MW0

B01: Importation shall be subject to the prescription set forth in the Table of Commodities Subject to Legal Animal & Plant Quarantine compiled by Animal and Plant Health Inspection Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Executive Yuan.

F01: Importation of foods shall follow the "Regulations of Inspection of Imported Foods and Related Products". The importer shall apply for inspection to the Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Health and Welfare (FDA).

MW0: Importation of China products is prohibited.

Attachments:

No Attachments