

Structure of orchards in 2017

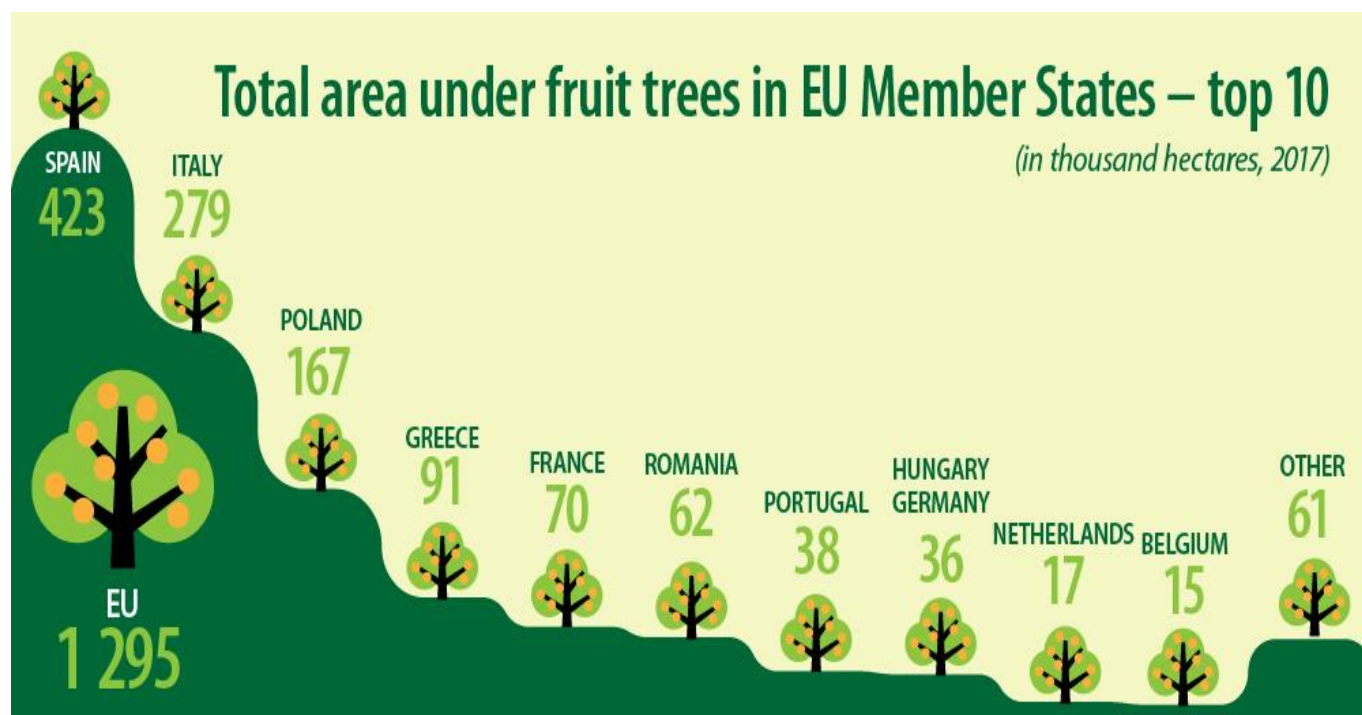
Two-thirds of the EU's fruit plantation area is concentrated in Spain, Italy and Poland

Almost 1.3 million hectares (ha) of land in the **European Union** (EU) were covered with fruit trees in 2017. A little over one third of this total was accounted for by apple orchards (473 500 ha, 37%), and another one fifth by orange groves (255 500 ha, 20%). Of the remainder, peach orchards covered 190 500 ha (15%), small citrus fruit trees producing satsumas and clementines in particular covered 139 600 ha (11%), pear trees covered 100 400 ha (8%), apricots covered 75 700 ha (6%) and lemon groves a further 60 100 ha (5%). The area planted with fruit trees accounted for around 1% of utilised agriculture area (173 million ha in 2016).

Two-thirds of the EU's fruit plantation areas were concentrated in Spain, Italy and Poland. **Spain** was the leading EU Member State in terms of the production area of fruit in 2017 (422 800 ha, or 33% of the EU total), followed by **Italy** (279 300 ha, or 22%) and **Poland** (167 300 ha, or 13%).

Compared with 2012, the area under fruit trees in the EU slightly increased (+0.4%). Between 2012 and 2017, among the countries with largest areas covered with fruit trees, there were expansions of fruit plantations in **Poland** (up +16 300 ha, or +11%), in **Greece** (up +5 300 ha, or +6%), in **Romania** (up +3 400 ha, or +6%) and in **Portugal** (up +2 500 ha, or +7%). These offset declines elsewhere, notably in **Spain** (-9 800 ha less, or -2%), **Italy** (-6 300 ha less, or -2%) and **Czechia** (-4 100 ha less, or -29%).

This information, published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, comes from the results of the latest 5-yearly EU data collection on orchards.



Poland has the largest area of apple orchards, Italy of pears and Spain of orange groves, small citrus fruits, peaches, apricots and lemon groves

About one third of the area devoted to apple orchards in the EU was found in **Poland** (160 800 ha, 34 %) in 2017, with a further one quarter split between **Italy** and **Romania** (55 800 ha and 55 100 ha respectively, both around 12%). Apple orchards in the EU expanded by 23 900 ha between 2012 and 2017, with most of that expansion concentrated in **Poland** (+17 700 ha, or +12%), **Romania** (+3 800 ha or +12%) and **Italy** (+3 600 ha, or +7%). There were some notable reductions, however, in **Czechia** (-2 700 ha, or -24%) and **Slovakia** (-1 500 ha, or -39%).

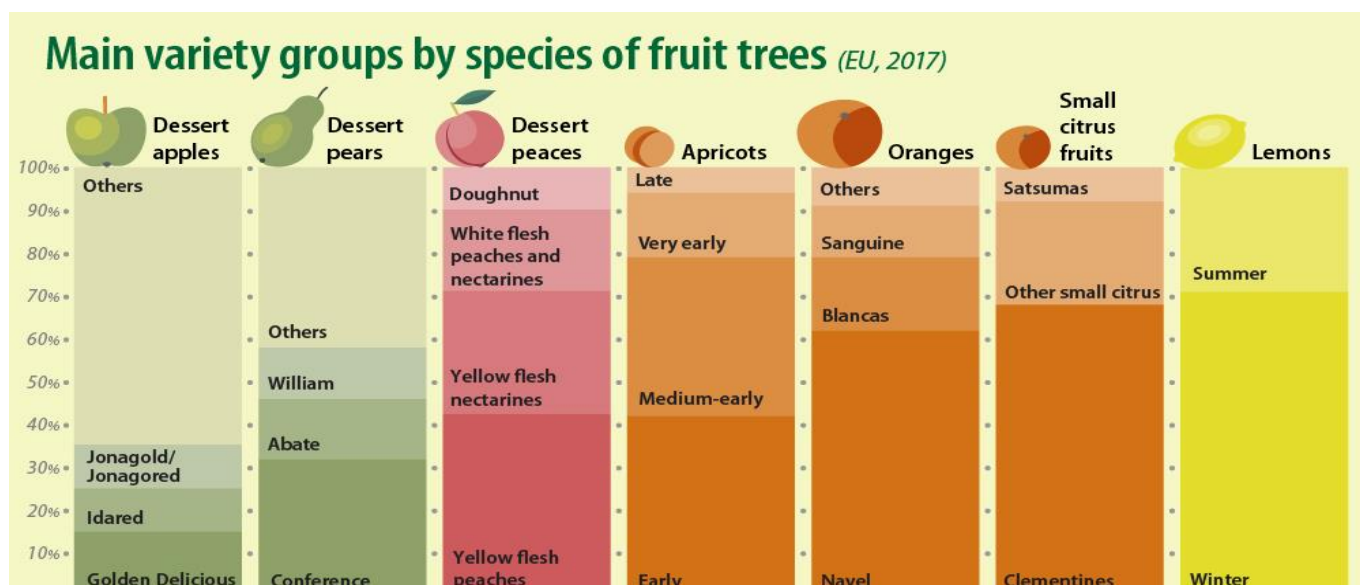
A little more than one-half of the EU's orange groves area was found in **Spain** (135 100 ha, or 53%) in 2017, with a further one-third being located in **Italy** (78 300 ha, or 31%). Most of the EU's remaining groves were found in **Greece** (28 800 ha, or 11%). Between 2012 and 2017, the area of orange groves in the EU shrank by -11 700 ha, driven by the -10% decline (or -14 900 ha fewer) in **Spain**.

Among Member States, **Spain** also had the most hectares of small citrus fruit (72 % of the EU total), of lemons (65 % of the EU total), of peaches (41% of EU total) and of apricots (32 % of the EU total). **Italy** had the second highest areas planted to all of these fruit but had also the largest area dedicated to pear orchards (29 000 ha, or 29% of the EU's total pear plantation area).



Navel oranges account for over half of the oranges, and clementines dominate the small citrus fruits

In the EU, “navel oranges” accounted for almost two-thirds (62%) of orange tree varieties in 2017 and clementines accounted for almost two-thirds (68%) of small citrus fruit trees. The most represented variety groups of other tree fruit in 2017 were “yellow flesh peaches” (43%), “early” apricots (42%), and “conference” pears (32%). There was arguably more variety in apple trees, with “Golden Delicious” being the most widespread (but with only 15 % of the EU's total apple area), followed by Idared and Jonagold/Jonagored (both 10%).



Methods and definitions

The data source is the European statistics on the structure of orchards, covered by Regulation (EU) No 1337/2011. This News release concentrates on area under fruit trees, from a collection that monitors a wider range of permanent crops such as fruit trees, olive trees and on voluntary basis vines producing grapes for table use. The statistical surveys on orchard area are carried out every five years by the EU Member States in order to determine the production potential of plantations of certain species of fruit trees.

Data production threshold:

Only EU Member States having a minimum planted area of 1000 hectares (ha) are included in the data collection.

For more information

Eurostat website section dedicated to agricultural statistics.

Eurostat database on agriculture.

Eurostat metadata on orchard statistics.

Eurostat statistical book "Agriculture, forestry and fishery statistics" (2018 edition).

Eurostat Statistic Explained article on agricultural production – orchards.


Issued by: **Eurostat Press Office**

Renata PALEN
Tel: +352-4301-33 444
eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu


Production of data:

Edward COOK
Tel: +352-4301-38 986
edward.cook@ec.europa.eu

 [EurostatStatistics](#)

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 **Media requests:** Eurostat media support / Tel: +352-4301-33 408 / eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu

Area under apple, orange, peach, small citrus fruit, pear, apricot and lemon trees, 2017

	Total area (in ha)	Apples	Oranges	Peaches	Small citrus fruits	Pears	Apricots	Lemons
EU	1.295.407	473.550	255.534	190.549	139.595	100.383	75.697	60.099
Belgium	14.730	5.789	:	:	:	8.941	:	:
Bulgaria	12.199	5.148	:	3.663	:	:	3.388	:
Czechia	9.841	7.819	:	:	:	870	1.152	:
Denmark	1.628	1.314	:	:	:	314	:	:
Germany	36.118	33.981	:	:	:	2.137	:	:
Estonia	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Ireland	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Greece	90.588	9.377	28.784	33.770	6.464	3.304	4.903	3.985
Spain	422.809	27.532	135.092	78.915	99.989	18.108	24.065	39.108
France	69.832	38.298	:	10.920	1.749	5.250	13.616	:
Croatia	6.181	4.459	:	:	1.722	:	:	:
Italy	279.281	55.810	78.348	54.196	26.717	28.623	18.894	16.694
Cyprus	3.286	377	1.109	299	933	71	186	312
Latvia	3.191	3.191	:	:	:	:	:	:
Lithuania	1.512	1.512	:	:	:	:	:	:
Luxembourg	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Hungary	36.291	25.044	:	3.509	:	2.335	5.404	:
Malta	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Netherlands	16.691	6.950	:	:	:	9.742	:	:
Austria	9.519	7.675	:	218	:	621	1.005	:
Poland	167.315	160.844	:	716	:	5.032	723	:
Portugal	38.332	11.306	12.202	2.498	2.021	10.306	:	:
Romania	62.489	55.050	:	1.846	:	3.231	:	:
Slovenia	2.355	2.355	:	:	:	:	:	:
Slovakia	2.321	2.321	:	:	:	:	:	:
Finland	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Sweden	1.655	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
United Kingdom	7.242	5.743	:	:	:	1.499	:	:
Serbia	43.962	25.281	:	7.160	:	5.734	5.787	:

: not applicable (less than 1000 hectares of plantation)

The source dataset can be found [here](#).