

Pear Update

Pear production in 2006/07 in the United States is expected to be lower as summer hail damaged the pear crop in Washington. Washington accounts for about 47 percent of total US production. The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will release the *Non-citrus Fruits and Nuts Preliminary Summary* on Tuesday, January 23, 2007, which will provide production and price figures for 2006/07. Of total U.S. production, about 20 percent is exported.

Mexico is the largest market for U.S. pears, making up about 45 percent of total U.S. exports. Pear production in Mexico is limited at about 31,000 MT as relatively high production costs are expected to keep overall planting area flat. U.S. exports to Mexico are expected to be down over 8 percent in 2006/07 due to tighter U.S. supplies and higher prices. Overall Mexican pear imports are expected to decline about 9 percent.

Pear production in Canada for the 2006/07 season is forecast to be 12,500 MT, up 17 percent over last year's lower-than-usual levels. Although the United States imports a substantial amount of apples, pear imports from Canada are very small. Nearly 6 percent of total U.S. production is exported to Canada. Canada imports pears from the United States, Chile, New Zealand, South Africa, and increasingly from China. The United States is beginning to face growing competition from China in the Canadian market. Currently, the United States accounts for over 80 percent of imported pears in Canada.

China's pear production in 2006/07 is expected to be nearly 13 million tons, up 10 percent over last year's record levels. Increased pear planting area and improved tree management has resulted in steady increases in overall production. China will export only about 3 percent of this mostly to Asian markets. However, China's growing exports stands to hinder growth for U.S. pears in the region, particularly in Indonesia, Taiwan and Singapore. Chinese exports have been growing and are rivaling Argentina, the world's top exporter.

(For information on production and trade, contact Heather Velthuis at 202-720-9792. FAS attaché on-line reports on deciduous fruits can be found on the FAS home page at:

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/scriptsw/attacherep/default.asp>.

Specific data on world production, supply, and demand for pears can be located at

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/psdhome.aspx>.