



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 6/10/2002

GAIN Report #FR2039

France

Fresh Deciduous Fruit

France Stone Fruits Production Update

2002

Approved by:

Besa L. Kotati

U.S. Embassy

Prepared by:

Xavier Audran

U.S. Embassy

Report Highlights:

France's stone fruit crops (apricot, peach and cherry) will be larger in 2002 than in 2001. Crop area is stable for apricot and cherry. However, for peach, crop area is decreasing due mostly to economic conditions and "sharka" disease. Crop quality for apricot and peach is expected to be good but average for cherry.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Paris [FR1], FR

According to the latest estimates from the Ministry of Agriculture, The French apricot crop will reach 162,000 MT for 2002, up 47 percent from the previous year and 12 percent above the 1998 -2000 average. No changes are reported in crop area which remains about 15,700 hectares. This is due to favorable weather condition and no frost at flowering and with fruit in abundance. Quality is expected to be good.

The peach crop is expected to reach 474,000 MT, up 3 percent from the previous year, despite a decrease in crop acreage down 400 hectares from last year to 21,300 hectares. The decrease in area is due to poor economic conditions in previous years as well as sharka disease. The quality of the fruit is expected to be good. These large crops are expected to put downward pressure on domestic prices.

On the other hand, France's cherry crop is expected to be less than the 1998-2000 average at 64,000 MT, but still above last year's level. There is no significant change in crop area at 12,200 hectares. Unfavorable weather condition during early harvest time (excess of rain) may negatively impact on quality.