

Title Loquat in Spain: production and marketing
Authors E. Soler, J. Martínez-Calvo, G. Llácer, M.L. Badenes
Citation ISHS Acta Horticulturae 750:45-48. 2007.
Keywords *Eriobotrya japonica*; orchard management; pests; diseases

Abstract

Due to environmental requirements most of the production of loquat (*Eriobotrya japonica* (Thunb.) Lindl.) in Spain is located in the Southeast coast. 'Algerie' and its mutations are the most important cultivar in the area accounting for 98% of the total production. The second area based on crop area and production is Andalusia, which accounts for 39% of the total production in Spain; the most important cultivars are 'Magdal' and 'Golden Nugget'. The crop is mostly located in family orchards, in high-density planting; growers use drip irrigation and apply water stress, after harvesting. Production of high quality fruits, according to market demand, requires large investments of labor. Labor represent 66% of total costs the highest relative amount of all horticultural crops in Spain. The limiting factors from pest and diseases are scab and soil fungus from species of *Armillaria*, *Rosellinia* and *Phytophthora*. However, the main limiting factor is purple spot, a physiological disorder. Marketing by grower associations is the most common method. Spain exports represent 36 to 47% of total production. Although loquat is exported to many countries, more than 80% of the export is destined to Italy, Portugal and France.