

Abstract:

North America grows about 955,000 tonnes (t) of pears on about 34,000 ha. About 50% of pear production is Bartlett, of which 67% is processed and the rest sold fresh. 'Anjou' is the principal fresh market cultivar with about 11.3 million 20 kg boxes, of which more than 35% is exported. 'Bosc' has about 3.4 million 20 kg boxes. 'Red Anjou', presently with 600,000 boxes, has the greatest planting increase. The three USA Pacific States have about 92% of North American production. Planting and production trends are downward in Canada, California, and Southern Oregon, flat in Mexico and Northern Oregon and slightly downward in the balance of USA except Washington State. Extensive pear plantings in Washington State a few years ago relate to a continued production increase. Storage diseases and maladies are major concerns along with orchard pest control, focused on pear psylla. A dwarfing precocious rootstock is highly desired. Pre-conditioning to reduce time from purchase to edibility is a major issue. Quarantine protocols for export and import are of concern as are "fresh" Southern Hemisphere imports beginning in late winter. Consolidation of wholesale buying power is ominous. Pears are suffering from lack of profitability in North America.