

# Orchards in Switzerland

## Description

As part of the tracking of planting and grubbing-up activity involving fruit trees, the land area planted with apples, apricots, pears (including nashi), sweet chestnuts, figs, hazelnuts, elderberries, persimmons, cherries, kiwis, almonds, olives, peaches (including nectarines), plums (including damsons), quinces and walnuts is surveyed.

The results of the survey are published annually as the 'Obstanlagen der Schweiz' (Orchards in Switzerland) statistics. They serve as the basis for planning fruit growing and for making decisions about fruit growing and the environment.

## Methodology

Methodology used:

The specified data is entered annually by fruit growers online in the cantonal IT systems for recording agricultural structural data. Data is recorded above a minimum net area of 0.20ha of orchard per holding. The minimum area for the inclusion of fruit varieties is 0.01ha. The cantonal offices check the data before it is transferred from the cantonal IT systems to the agricultural policy information system (AGIS) operated by the Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG). The FOAG carries out further checks on the data, ensuring that AGIS contains all relevant, holding-specific data relating to orchards, and that the data is of high quality.

Variables used:

- Details of the fruit grower
- Location details (canton, commune, plots)
- Orchard details (species, selected details of varieties, first year of cultivation, land area, number of plants and planting distances)
- Details of any weather and pest protection and irrigation systems in place
- Details of the intended use of the harvest
- Details of the production method (organic farming, proof of ecological performance)

Survey date/period:

- Annually from the beginning of January to the end of September in accordance with cantonal and FOAG requirements

Frequency of publication:

- Fourth quarter of each year

Degree of regionalisation:

- Switzerland and cantons (but data is available for individual holdings)

## Revision policy

Revisions are made in the event of changes in methodology and responsibilities as well as adjustments to the definition of orchards or the variables to be used.

## Relevant legislation

- Agriculture Act of 29 April 1998 (SR 910.1)
- Statistical Surveys Ordinance of 30 June 1993 (SR 431.012.1)
- Agriculture Terminology Ordinance of 7 December 1998 (SR 910.91)
- Fruit Ordinance of 23 October 2013 (SR 916.131.11)

## Organisation

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