

Commentary

On the date of the survey 20 108 ha of orchards were identified in the Czech Republic. The most important fruit species is an apple tree which is being grown on 9 901 hectares. This area comprises 50 % of the total area of orchards. Moreover, sour-cherry trees (10 % of the total area), apricot and plum trees (9 % of the total area), cherry and peach trees (6 % of the total area) and pear trees (4 % of the total area) are planted.

Total of 2 996 fruit producers (reporting units) are farming on the area of 20 108 ha, of which 1 136 producers apply intensive farming (i.e. intensive or production orchards). Intensive orchards cover 86 % of the total area of fruit orchards.

As for fruit varieties grown, the most popular groups of varieties for apple trees are Golden Delicious and Golden Spur (19,9 % of the apple tree area) and Idared (18,4 % of the apple tree area); for pear trees these are varieties Konference and Lucasova (16,9 % and 15,4 % of the pear tree area). In case of peach trees the dominant variety is Redhaven (50,7 % of the peach tree area) and for apricot trees the most widespread variety is Velkopavlovická (63,14 % of the apricot tree area).

Czech fruit-growing faces, in the long term, the problem of inconvenient age structure of fruit trees. The Orchard Survey confirmed a considerably high share of overmatured fruit trees: 43,2 % of apple trees and 34,8 % of pear trees were aged over 25 years, 33,4 % of peach trees, 46,4 % of apricot trees, 55,4 % of cherry trees, 47,6 % of sour-cherry trees and 20,0 % of plum trees were aged over 20 years.

According to the European legislation the density of plantations was surveyed too. In case of apple trees the most common identified density was 400 – 800 trees/ha, 800 – 1 600 trees/ha for pear trees and 300 – 600 trees/ha for peach and apricot trees.

Majority of orchards in the Czech Republic are localized in the region Jihomoravský (24 % of the total area) and Středočeský (20 % of the total area). In the other regions orchards cover about 10 % of the total orchard area (regions Ústecký, Královéhradecký, Olomoucký), about 6 % of the total area (regions Jihočeský, Zlínský, Liberecký) and under 3 % of the total area (regions Pardubický, Plzeňský, Moravskoslezský, Karlovarský, Vysočina).