

Imports of Chilean Royal Gala apples increase in Brazil

Detail Introduction :

Royal Gala apple arrivals have increased in the Brazilian market in recent weeks.

Brazil has gone from being a major importer to an interesting exporter of apples, especially Gala (65%) and Fuji (35%). According to the Brazilian Association of apple Produce (ABPM), in 2020, Brazil ranked 150th in the world of apple production worldwide, representing 1.09%.

However, in the 2021/2022 season, there was a considerable volume drop due to "off" years in the productions and the impact of the La Niña phenomenon, which caused damage to apple trees as a result of excessive rainfall during the flowering period and severe drought during the fruit set. Consequently, yields were reduced by 38%, with a high predominance of small sizes and a lack of color.

Researchers are working on clones to improve this color deficiency that has been observed repeatedly in the seasons. The Purple Gala variety has been gaining strength thanks to its good results in the field, mainly due to its homogeneous color and good fruit formation.

The domestic product has found an interesting niche for small sizes in the markets of Russia, Bangladesh, and India. Still, the political contingency, the availability of maritime transport, and high logistics costs have led producers to leave this fruit in the domestic market, with a stable and competitive price to cover operational costs.

During week 21, shipments of Royal Gala and clones from Chile to Brazil increased by 37% compared to the previous week. Compared to last season, Chilean exports have already far exceeded the 2021 volume. On the same date last year, only 23 tons of the variety had been shipped to Brazil, while this year, the volume has reached 8,355 tons (+36,226%), displacing the red varieties that dominated the market during the previous season; a situation that the scarce local supply could explain.

The advantage of the domestic Gala is that it can be supplied uninterruptedly in the market, without sharp drops in the supply, which imported Gala apples occasionally suffer.

Brazil is the third-largest destination in Latin America for this variety, with Chile being the only supplier in Latin America, besides Uruguay, which supplies some Gala at specific times of the season and accounts for a very low and insignificant share to be considered as a strong supplier of apples.

Chilean exports have so far consisted mostly of medium size fruit; however, during the 22nd and 23rd weeks, there was slightly more fruit of smaller sizes (138-165).