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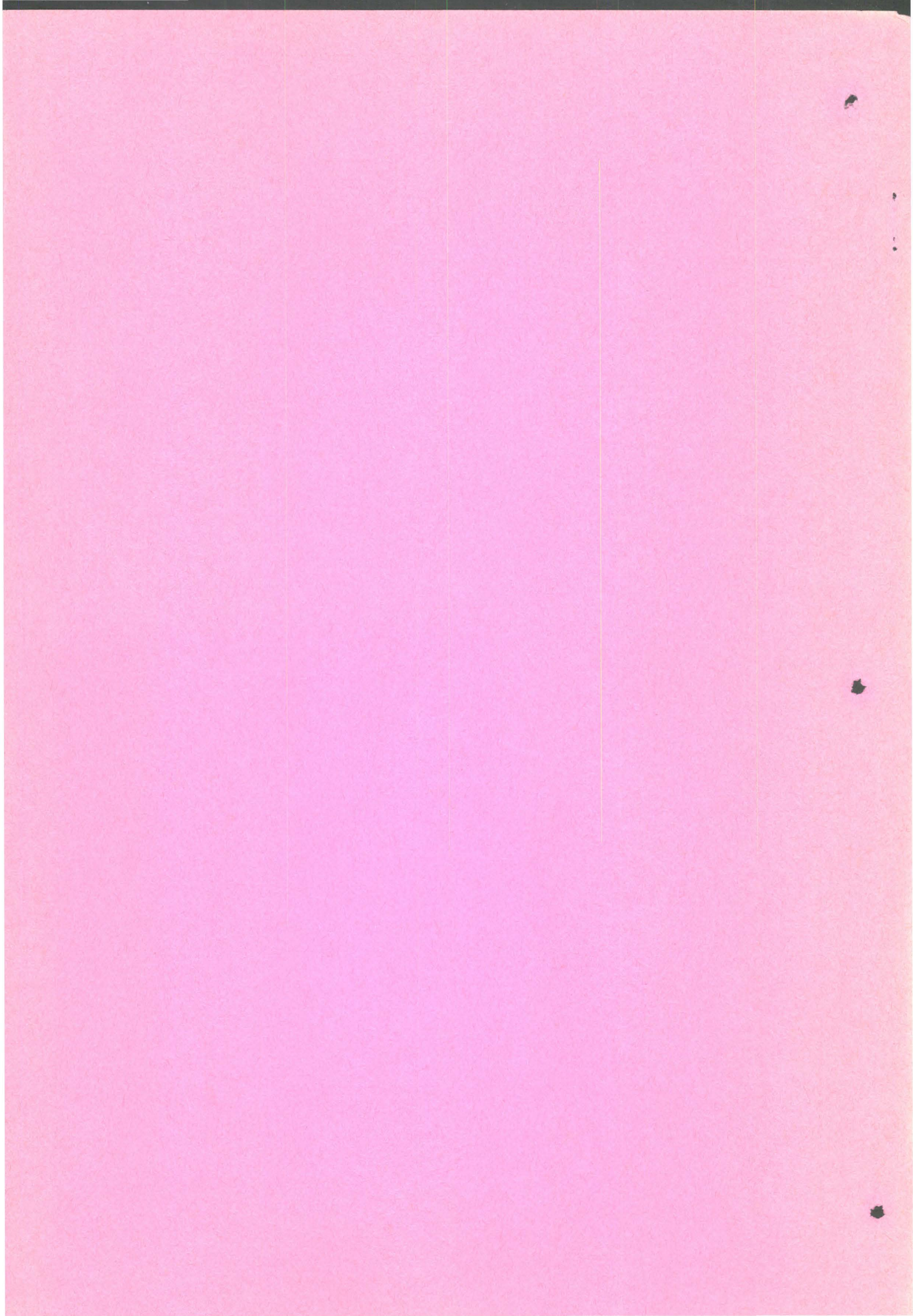
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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ESTIMATED CLEARINGS AND NEW PLANTATIONS
OF CERTAIN TYPES OF FRUIT TREES

(submitted to the European Parliament and to
the Council by the Commission)

COM(79) 71 final



I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Council Directive of 20 July 1976, 76/625/EEC¹⁾, as amended by Council Directive 77/159/EEC²⁾ of 14 February 1977, concerning the statistical surveys to be carried out by Member States in order to determine the production^{potential} of plantations of certain species of fruit trees, requires in Article 8 that the Commission shall submit to the European Parliament and the Council from 1 January 1977 annual reports on the subject of Articles 5 and 6.
2. This second report relates to estimates made by Member States of the areas of fruit trees cleared and newly planted during the 1976/77 season. The information should have been notified to the Commission by 31 December 1977, but once again delays occurred through some Member States encountering difficulties in meeting the deadline specified in the Directive (see para. 13).

II. OBJECTIVE

3. The objective of Articles 5 and 6 of the Directive is to provide the Commission with annual estimates of changes in the area of certain species of fruit trees (dessert apples, dessert pears, peaches and oranges). These estimates give an indication of the trend in the area under fruit trees between the quinquennial surveys on fruit tree plantations.

III. INFORMATION RECEIVED

4. The Directive requires Member States to supply annual estimates of the areas of fruit trees cleared and newly planted by species. For new plantations the estimates must distinguish between varieties "in so far as possible". Most Member States have been able to sub-divide both clearings and plantings into major varieties or varietal groups, but one or two countries have only supplied global estimates.

IV. AREAS CLEARED (Table 1)

5. The total area of apple, pear, peach and orange trees cleared in 1976/77 was 27 606 hectares, an increase of 55 % compared with clearings during the 1975/76 season. Clearings of apple trees were almost double those of 1975/76, increases occurring in all Member States with the exception of Ireland and Denmark. Clearings of pear and peach trees increased by approximately one-third overall, mainly in France and Italy in the case of pears, and Italy in the case of peaches. Clearings of orange trees were once again insignificant.
6. The increased rate of clearing of apple and pear trees almost certainly resulted from the Community grubbing premiums³⁾ which were payable on areas of Golden

1) O.J. No L218, 11.8.1976, p. 10

2) O.J. No L 48, 19.2.1977, p. 31

3) Council Regulation (EEC) No 794/76 of 6 April 1976; O.J. No L93, 8.4.1976, p.3

Delicious, Starking Delicious and Imperatore apple varieties and Passe Crassane pears cleared before 1 April 1977. Final statistics on areas of these varieties cleared under grant are not yet available from the Directorate-General for Agriculture, but estimates supplied by Member States are given in Table 2. The varieties eligible for grubbing premiums accounted for at least 75 % of apples cleared in France and Belgium and 57 % of apples cleared in Italy. Clearings of Passe Crassane pears amounted to 60 % of the total in Italy. In the United Kingdom, apple trees cleared were mainly of the Cox's Orange Pippin and Worcester Pearmain varieties.

7. Information on varieties of peach trees cleared is incomplete, but there appear to be no significant changes compared with the previous season.

V. AREAS PLANTED (Table 3)

8. During the 1976/77 season nearly 14 thousand hectares of apple, pear, peach and orange trees were planted, an increase of 13 % over the preceding season. The areas of new plantations of apple and pear trees showed increases of 11 % and 33 % respectively, whilst the area of new orange plantations almost doubled (although it still represents only 1.3 % of the total area under oranges recorded at the previous survey). New plantations of peach trees were at virtually the same level as in 1975/76.
9. Despite the grubbing scheme outlined above, Golden Delicious and Red Delicious type apple varieties together represented over 50 % of new plantations in France and Italy. New plantations of Imperatore apples and Passe Crassane pears in Italy were, however, negligible. In Germany, Belle de Boskoop and Gloster were the major apple varieties planted, and Cox's Orange Pippin accounted for 50 % of the new plantations in the United Kingdom. The Navel and Tarocco varieties represented 30 % and 52 % respectively of total plantings of oranges.

VI. NET CHANGE IN AREA (Table 4)

10. During 1976/77, the total area of commercial orchards of apples, pears, peaches and oranges declined by 13 725 hectares, compared with 5 500 hectares during the 1975/76 season. As a proportion of the total area recorded at the previous survey, the decrease was greatest in the case of pears (-5.4 %), whilst the area under apples and peaches decreased by 2.9 % and 2.5 % respectively. As in 1975/76, there was a slight increase in the area under oranges (0.8 %).
11. Because of insufficient data, a precise analysis of the change in area by variety is not possible. However, nearly 75% of the decrease in the area under apples and over 50 % of the decrease in pears can be attributed to the varieties eligible

for grubbing premiums (see para. 6).

12. The areas under apples, pears, peaches and oranges recorded at the previous survey in each Member State have been adjusted by the total change in areas shown in Table 4 to give an estimate of the areas in 1977. Table 5 gives a comparison between the estimated 1977 area and the actual area as recorded at the 1977 Community orchard fruit tree survey carried out under the provisions of Council Directive 76/625/EEC. In making this comparison, attention is drawn to the fact that the methods used to collect annual information on clearings and plantings vary from country to country. Some Member^{States} collect the information at the time of the annual agricultural census whereas others rely on estimates made by horticultural advisory officers. The estimates are not, therefore, strictly comparable with each other, nor with the Community orchard fruit survey results.

VII. CONCLUSIONS

13. The information received from Member States in respect of the 1976/77 season provided much the same level of detail as for the 1975/76 season. Some Member States are still unable to supply details of individual varieties, and consequently an analysis of the changes in area of major varieties at Community level is not possible. In addition, most Member States still have difficulty in providing the information by the deadline of 31 December specified in Articles 5 and 6 of the Directive, with the result that EUROSTAT was not in receipt of all the data until some 9 months later. The problems leading to this delay will be discussed with Member States at a future meeting of the "Vegetable Products Statistics" (fruit and vegetables) Working Party with a view to finding a solution.
14. As stated in paragraph 3, the purpose of collecting annual estimates of areas cleared and newly planted is to provide up-to-date information on trends in commercial orchard areas. Table 5 shows, however, that for certain Member States there are significant divergences between the trends indicated by the annual estimates (col. 2) and the actual change occurring between successive surveys (col. 5). Because of this, and because, moreover, of incomplete information on individual varieties cleared and a complete lack of information on the age of trees cleared (neither of which is required by the Directive), it is difficult to see how the estimates in their present form can be used, as had been hoped, for production forecasting purposes. It may of course be possible in future years for Member States to provide improved and more detailed estimates of clearings and plantings, but at the moment the data should be interpreted with caution.

Table 1 : Area and proportion¹⁾ of orchard fruit cleared in 1976/77 by country and species

Country	Apples		Pears		Peaches		Oranges	
	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%
BR Deutschland	592	2,1	43	1,6	3	0,7	-	-
France ²⁾	5 177	7,7	1 285	4,9	3 928	9,3	-	-
Italia	3 238	4,5	4 453	8,3	4 015	4,8	487	0,5
Nederland	2 159	9,8	428	6,6 ³⁾	-	-	-	-
Belgique/België	425	5,1	26	0,7	1	1,3	-	-
Luxembourg	11 ⁴⁾	2,8	-	-	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	1 102	5,3	193	3,8	-	-	-	-
Ireland	9	1,6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Danmark	42	0,6	-	-	-	-	-	-
EUR-9	12 744	5,9	6 428	6,8	7 947	6,3	487	0,5

1) Areas cleared as a proportion of the areas recorded at the previous survey (see Table 4 for date of previous survey)

2) For France, estimates of clearings and plantings are based on the "Evolution des Vergers" survey (Orchard Trends Survey) and not on the "Structure des Vergers" survey (Orchard Structure Survey) carried out in 1974. The estimates have therefore been expressed as a percentage of the total area at 1.8.1976 obtained from the "Evolution des Vergers" survey.

3) Excluding cooking pears (Stoofferen)

4) Based on statistics obtained from applications for grubbing premiums

Table 2 : Area of apple and pear varieties mentioned in Council Regulation (EEC) No. 794/76 (1) cleared in 1976/77.

Country	Apples				Pears	
	Total	of which :			Total	of which :
		Golden Delicious	Starking Delicious etc.2)	Imperatore		Passe Crassane
BR Deutschland	592	..	..	-	43	-
France	5 177	3 960	..	-	1 285	..
Italia	3 238	856	..	1 001	4 453	2 700
Nederland	2 159	732 ³⁾	..	-	428	-
Belgique/België	425	321	..	-	26	-
Luxembourg	-	-	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	1 102	..	..	-	193	-
Ireland	9	3	..	-	-	-
Danmark	42	29	..	-	-	-
EUR-9	12 744	..	..	1 001	6 428	..

1) Grubbing premiums for apple and pear trees

2) Based on statistics obtained from applications for grubbing premiums

.. Not available

Table 3 : Area and proportion 1) of orchard fruit planted in 1976/77 by country and species

Country	Apples		Pears		Peaches		Oranges	
	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%
BR Deutschland	727	2,6	33	1,2	6	1,4	-	-
France 2)	1 662	2,4	404	1,5	1 729	4,1	-	-
Italia	2 324	3,2	600	1,1	3 093	3,7	1 262	1,3
Nederland	679	3,1	110	1,7	-	-	-	-
Belgique/België	231	2,7	80	2,3	-	-	-	-
Luxembourg	3	0,8	1	10,0	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	726	3,5	106	2,1	-	-	-	-
Ireland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Danmark	94	1,3	11	1,3	-	-	-	-
EUR-9	6 446	3,0	1 345	1,4	4 828	3,8	1 262	1,3

1) Areas planted as a proportion of the areas recorded at the previous survey (see Table 4 for date of previous survey)

2) See Table 1, footnote 2

3) Excluding cooking pears (Stoofperen)

Table 4 : Net change in area under orchard fruit since previous survey (new plantations minus clearings)

Country	Date of previous survey	Apples		Pears		Peaches		Oranges	
		Total change since previous survey	of which: 1976/77	Total change since previous survey	of which: 1976/77	Total change since previous survey	of which: 1976/77	Total change since previous survey	of which: 1976/77
BR Deutschland	1972	+ 837	+ 135	85	10	-	3	-	-
France	1974/75	- 3880	- 3515	- 1103	- 881	- 3859	- 2199	-	-
Italia	1974	- 1959	- 914	- 8568	- 3853	+ 50	- 922	+ 1082	+ 775
Nederland	1974	- 1874 ¹⁾	- 1480	- 776 ¹⁾	- 318	+ 1	-	-	-
Belgique/België	1972	- 342 ²⁾	- 194	+ 92 ²⁾	+ 54	- 4	- 1	-	-
Luxembourg	1973	+ 5	+ 3	+ 2	+ 1	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	1974	- 1221	- 376	- 95	- 87	-	-	-	-
Ireland	1973	- 15	- 9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Danmark	1974	+ 808	+ 52	- 39	+ 11	-	-	-	-
EUR-9		- 7333	- 6298	- 10572	- 5083	- 3805	- 3119	+ 1082	+ 775

1) From 1974/75 only

2) From 1975/76 only

Table 5 : Comparison of estimated 1977 orchard fruit areas and actual areas recorded at the 1977 Community orchard fruit survey

Country	Apples				Pears					
	Previous survey area 1)	Total clearings & plantings 2)	Estimated 1977 area 3)	Actual 1977 area 4)	Change in area (Col. 4-Col. 1) 5)	Previous survey area 1)	Total clearings & plantings 2)	Estimated 1977 area 3)	Actual 1977 area 4)	Change in area (Col. 4-Col. 1) 5)
BR Deutschland	28 094	+ 837	28 931	26 720	- 1374	2 754	-	2 669	2 455	-
France	56 359	- 3254 3)	53 105	60 872	+ 4513	22 479	-	21 541	24 026	+ 1547
Italia	72 062	- 1959	70 103	69 377	- 2685	53 581	-	45 013	44 626	- 8955
Nederland	21 923	- 1874 4)	20 049	20 042	- 1881	6 487 4)	-	5 711	5 708 4)	- 779
Belgique/België	8 401	+ 34 5)	8 367	8 324	- 77	3 553	+	3 645	3 589 7)	+ 36
Luxembourg	390	+ 5 6)	395	649 7)	..	10	+	12	12	..
U.K.	20 986	- 1221	19 765	19 362	- 1624	5 136	-	5 041	4 773	- 363
Ireland	561	- 15	546	473	- 88	-	-	-	-	-
Danemark	7 223	+ 808	8 031	6 055	- 1168	874	-	835	726	- 148
EJR-9	215 999	- 6707	209 292	211 874	..	94 874	- 10407	84 467	85 915	..

Country	Peaches 8)				Oranges 8)					
	Previous survey area 1)	Total clearings & plantings 2)	Estimated 1977 area 3)	Actual 1977 area 4)	Change in area (Col. 4-Col. 1) 5)	Previous survey area 1)	Total clearings & plantings 2)	Estimated 1977 area 3)	Actual 1977 area 4)	Change in area (Col. 4-Col. 1) 5)
BR Deutschland	418	-	418	281	- 137	+	-	-	-	-
France	42 034	- 3700 3)	38 334	39 151	- 2833	-	-	-	-	-
Italia	83 136	+ 50	83 186	79 886	- 3250	96 688	+	97 770	102 837	+ 6149
EJR-9	125 588	- 3650	121 938	119 318	- 6270	96 688	+	97 770	102 837	+ 6149

- 1) See Table 4 for date of previous survey
- 2) From previous survey until 1976/77
- 3) EUROSTAT estimates based on annual percentage changes derived from the "Evolution des Vergers" survey (see Tables 1 and 3) applied to the area recorded at the 1974/75 "Structure des Vergers" survey
- 4) Excluding cooking pears (Stoofperen)
- 5) From 1974/75 only
- 6) From 1975/76 only
- 7) Change of definition
- 8) The 1977 survey for peach trees was carried out in Italy, France and Germany only, and for orange trees in Italy only

.. Data not comparable