

- Press Release -

Delays and shortages for major European vegetable crops

European vegetable canners and freezers in major producing countries are concerned over this year's spring crops: excessive rain in the South and cold weather and a late spring in the North have resulted in very late drilling and consequently a shorter season.

All important production areas in Europe face severe delays, and shortages are expected for a number of crops:

Peas: In Southern Spain, Portugal and Hungary pea production was particularly badly affected and shortages are already predicted. The North-West of Europe had 2 to 3 weeks delays in drilling.

Winter Spinach: Belgium, France, Netherlands and Germany have experienced about 25 days delay in the harvest. Due to heavy rain, Spain lost around 60% of the production.

Spring Spinach: Drilling 3 weeks late.

Baby Carrots: Holland, Belgium and France report delays in summer crop.

Broccoli: Portugal and Spain report important shortages due to heavy rains, while Poland reports 2 weeks delay due to the cold spring weather.

Beans: The drilling of beans will be delayed especially for those northern Europe producers who sow beans as a second crop after first peas are harvested.

The late spring and the shortened season cast uncertainty over available volumes, especially against the background of the current low stocks, following last year's rather short crop.

Final 2012 production figures were recently confirmed at European level (see hereunder), showing a 3-5% reduction in volumes of vegetables processed in the main producer countries compared to the previous year.

	2011	2012
Frozen vegetables* total in t	3.232.300	3.124.000
Canned vegetables* total in t demi-brut (x1000 1/1 of 850ml)	2.108.000	2.005.300

*excluding sweet corn, tomatoes and potatoes

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PROFEL is the European Association of fruit and vegetable processing industries (canned vegetables, frozen vegetables, dehydrated vegetables, jams and fruit preserves, canned fruit and compotes). Over 500 companies affiliated via PROFEL's national associations produce each year approximately 650.000 t of fruit preserves, 1,2 million t of canned fruit, 2,3 million t of canned vegetables, 2,5 million t of frozen vegetables, and about 35.000 t of dried vegetables.