



Swedish Board
of Agriculture



Added Value in Swedish Cultivation

Swedish cultivation has added value that result from strict enforcement of Swedish laws, regulations, and various types of commitments, which makes the Swedish requirements stricter than the general EU requirements. At the same time, there is an increased demand for sustainably produced agricultural and horticultural products among consumers and restaurants. General added values exist for products such as fruit, berries, vegetables, potatoes, legumes, cereals and oilseeds.

Added value in Swedish Cultivation

- Sweden imposes more restrictions on the use of pesticides in farming compared to many other countries. This is an added value; it is beneficial to the people working in agriculture, as well as the consumers who eat the products, not to mention the environment. Government authorities and the farming sector are working to promote a healthy environment and good health through the environmental objectives “A non-toxic environment,” “Good-quality groundwater” and “A varied agricultural landscape.”
- Sweden also has natural advantages, the climate is colder up north and this reduces the need to use certain pesticides. The soil types in Sweden are favourable for farming, and the climate reduces the risk of damage by insects, and other pest organisms. This means that we are one of the countries in Europe that uses the least amount of pesticides per cultivated area.¹
- Fruits and vegetables grown in Sweden have low levels of pesticide residues. A number of plant-based foods are monitored yearly by the Swedish National Food Agency, to ensure that they do not exceed the maximum residue limits.
- It is illegal to use chemical agents on harvested products in Sweden. After harvest treatment with chemical agents on fruits, vegetables and potatoes in order to prevent diseases, is permitted in many other EU countries. No chemical agents, intended to protect harvested fruit and potatoes from harmful organisms, have ever been approved in Sweden. Such treatment has also been prohibited under Swedish law since 2015. Instead, the problem has primarily been addressed through the implementation of improved storage methods.

- In Sweden the pressure on the groundwater is low. Sweden is among the countries in the EU with the lowest pressure on the groundwater, with a water stress index of about one percent.
- Fruits and vegetables grown in Sweden may reduce food waste. A short distance from the grower to the consumer most likely results in lower waste. The right choice of varieties of plants, a cool growing climate and long daylight hours can result in tastier products, because low temperatures stimulate the formation of flavourful and aromatic substances. Thus, the climate conditions in Sweden are ideally suited to the production of aromatic fruits and berries.
- The use of alternative crop protection methods is important. Instead of pesticides, Swedish farmers use crop rotation and select plant varieties that are naturally resistant to certain harmful organisms.

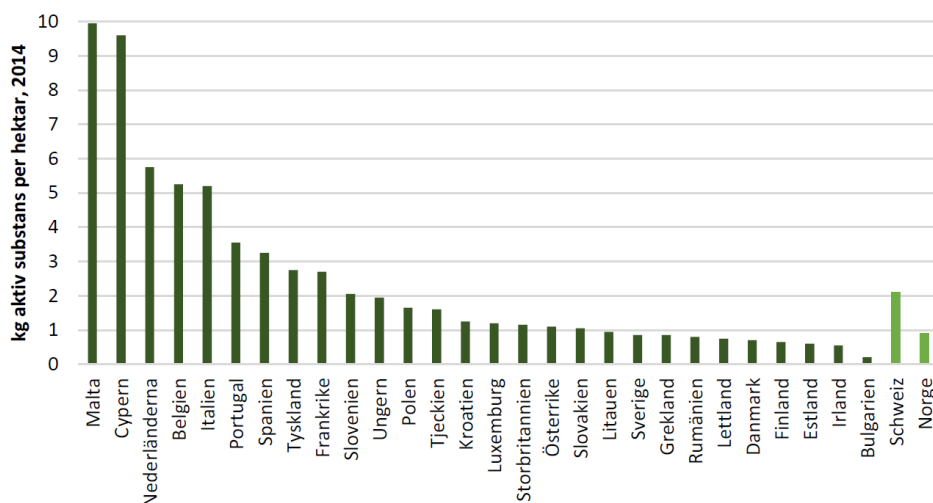


Image: Sales of plant protection products, kg active ingredient/HA in 2014 (approximate levels).¹

Sources:

¹ Agriculture, forestry and fishery statistics. 2015 edition. Eurostat.
The Swedish Board of Agriculture's regulations

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More information about Swedish food production and Swedish gastronomy can be found at www.jordbruksverket.se/swefood, or you can visit us at <http://visitsweden.com/food-and-drink>.