



Foreign Agricultural Service

**GAIN Report**

Global Agriculture Information Network

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 6/1/2000

GAIN Report #IS0002

## Israel

### Fresh Deciduous Fruit

### New Tariffs on Pears in 2000

### 2000

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#### **Report Highlights:**

A duty-free quota of 877 mt has been set for U.S. pears. Beyond the quota - duties are \$772/mt for pears valued at or below \$772/mt cif. For U.S. pears landing with a value higher than \$772/mt, the duty drops to 40.5 percent.

There is a market for U.S. quince in Israel and unutilized duty-free quota of 250 mt. At present quince is imported from Spain.

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Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No

Unscheduled Report  
Tel Aviv [IS1], IS



Under the U.S.-Israel Free Trade Area Agreement there is a duty-free Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) for pears, in effect for shipments up to 877 metric tons, which arrive between November 1 and May 31. Importers must apply to the Ministry of Agriculture's Foreign Trade Center for an import license under the duty free quota. Generally, the license will be for a maximum of 20 mt of pears.

Whereas the TRQ season straddles two calendar years, the quota and the tariffs are set for the calendar year. Thus, the shipments in CY1999 were limited by a quota of 844 mt. Beginning January 1, 2000, the new duty free quota is 877 mt.

The duty charged on imports beyond the TRQ of 877 mt which came into effect on January 1, 2000 is as following:

If accompanied by a U.S. certificate of origin

For pears with a value for customs of less than NS 3,204 per mt (\$772/mt) - the GOI estimate of production cost of pears - the duty is NS 3,204 per mt, not to exceed 428.85 percent (sic!) of the value for customs.

For pears with a value for customs exceeding NS 3,204 per mt, the ex-quota duty is 40.5 percent of the value for customs.

For produce from origins other than the U.S.

With value for customs of NS 3,560 (\$858) or less the duty is NS 3,560/mt, not to exceed 476.5 percent of value for customs.

With value for customs greater than NS 3,560, the duty is 45 percent of the value for customs.

The present rate of exchange is \$1.00 = NS 4.15

In addition to the U.S., Israel has special agreements with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Hungary and Slovenia which provide for pear imports at a reduced tariff.

An importer is required to obtain an import license from the Plant Protection and Inspection Services (PPIS) of Israel's Ministry of Agriculture. This license sets out the details of the phytosanitary requirements which must be met by the incoming shipment. Among the requirements is an APHIS phytosanitary certificate, signed by the APHIS inspector who examines the export shipment.

Israel's Plant Protection and Inspection Service has become especially sensitive about introduction of pests, recently closing down fruit imports from Italy and Greece because of the presence of San Jose Scale. A recent shipment of pears from Spain was also found to have San Jose Scale. Shippers of U.S. pears should take extra precautions to ensure that their produce is free of pests such as two-spot and other types of mites and should contact an APHIS office nearby to obtain instruction on preparing their shipments.

### In the Market

According to the Agricultural Marketing Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, in the final week of 1999 some 400 mt of pears were marketed, compared to 346 mt in the previous week and 277 mt in the last week of 1998. In spite of the increased quantities, supply was insufficient and wholesale prices moved between NS 5.00 and NS 8.00 per kilogram.

Wholesale pear prices (NS/kg) expressed as an average for the three main markets, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa were as follows in the marketing week of 12/26 to 12/30, 1999.

Variety	Size - cm		1999	1998
Imported Spadona	5.50		5.60	1.90
	6.00		6.00	5.90
	6.50		6.45	3.10
Domestic Spadona	5.00		5.50	4.75
	5.50		6.05	5.20
	6.00		6.60	5.75
	6.50		7.05	6.25
Domestic Coscia	4.50		5.00	na
	5.00		6.65	na
	5.50		8.35	na
Imported Quince			8.15	na
Domestic Quince			6.50	na
Domestic Apples				
Granny Smith	7.00	No. 1	5.20	5.20
Golden Delicious	7.00	No. 1	5.30	5.20
Jonathan	7.00	No. 1	5.95	5.65
Starking Delicious	7.00	No. 1	5.30	6.25

