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On Table Grape Exports To U.S. From Sonora State

by Carlos Navarro

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On Aug. 30 in Hermosillo (Sonora), Roberto Valenzuela Gonzalez, spokesperson for local grape producers, told reporters that table grape exports to the US dropped from 35 million kg. in 1991 to 25 million in 1992, result of lower prices and inclement weather (unseasonal freeze and excessive humidity). Valenzuela said the US market can absorb 12 to 14 million boxes of table grapes every season. Thus far in 1992, the price on a 10-kg. box exported to the US has ranged between US$6 and US$7, compared to US$13 to US$14 last year. In 1991, the US imported about US$50 million worth of table grapes from Sonora state. According to Valenzuela, fruit growers' indebtedness has increased to nearly US$80 million, result of low prices for grapes, watermelon, cantaloupe and other fresh produce. (Source: Notimex, 08/30/92)

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