

Thompson grape season kicking off in India

According to Amit Kalya, Manager Kalya Exports, "The Thompson grape variety is just starting and the fruit is looking very good this year and the volumes will be nice. The sugar levels are low for now, with an average of 14/15 on the lower side and 16/17 on the upper side. We think they will be good in a week's time, and the residue levels (MRL's) will also be ideal for the German market by then."

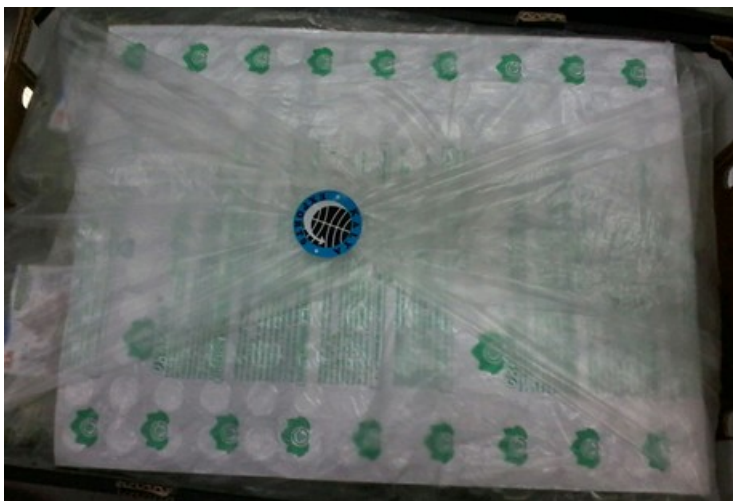


He explains that this has been possible due to the improvement of the weather conditions compared to last year's disaster. "There has only been a cold wave, which is why the sugars are not high yet and the chemical degradation is quite slow. We are seeing a gentle shift of the early season (everything is starting a week earlier), but we don't foresee any weather problems, so I don't think there will be a shortage of grapes. Only after March could we see shortages because we expect very high temperatures."



As an action plan to tackle this, Kalya states that they would like to pack more grapes until the end of March, allowing importers to keep the supply going until May. In total, Kalya expects to ship 3,000 to 5,000 tons this year mainly to continental Europe and the UK, but also Russia and Asia. He also added that prices

are expected to decline in India which should have a favorable impact in other markets.



Furthermore, given its increased output, Kalya Exports has plans to open a new packhouse; a new, world class modern facility. "We will start planning for that after the current season is complete."

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