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Citrus growers forecast another record year for exports

2ND APRIL 2026 BY: REUTERS

CREAMER MEDIA'S
ENGINEERING NEWS



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South African citrus exports could rise by as much as 5% this year after a record 2025, but the sector is wary of the impact of the Iran war on

demand, fuel pricing and availability, a growers' group said on Wednesday.

South Africa, the world's second largest citrus exporter after Spain, expects to ship between 210-million and 215-million 15 kg cartons this year.

That's up from 203.4-million cartons last year which were worth R44.9-billion.

South Africa's government on Tuesday reduced its fuel levy for one month to cushion the economy from fuel price increases triggered by the war.

"We are acutely aware of the uncertainties the industry faces with the current war in the Middle East's potential effect on demand, shipping, fuel availability and input costs," the Citrus Growers of Southern Africa said in a statement.

"But, should all that is possible be done to limit the impact of these factors, steady growth towards another record export season is within reach," it added.

The country's citrus export season starts in April, with most shipments of oranges, lemons, grapefruit and mandarins going to European markets, followed by the Middle East. 🇿🇦

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