

South Africa: Drought and heat have large impact on volumes

Wiekus Hellmann of Green Marketing International says that the unstable Rand makes planning difficult. "The weak currency does help with the returns that we give the producers, but one must also take cognisance of the fact that the clients also know that the Rand has weakened, and they try to drop the prices due to that fact."

The drought has also proved to be an obstacle with regards to the volumes that the company is able to export. "What we see is that once the fruit comes into the packing house, a lot more needs to be cut out, so we lose a lot more fruit than we did last year, and the heat also impacts the quality of the fruit. So the drought and the heat definitely have a large impact on the volumes," says Hellmann.

"It's difficult to say how long the effect of the drought will last. Some products are affected very badly, and some are not affected at all. I think the growers try to manage as well as they can, but it is a serious problem, and definitely something we're concerned about for the future."

Green Marketing International ships to Europe, the Middle East, the Far East, Canada, and China. They Export Stonefruit, Grapes, Citrus, Pome fruit and Persimmons.

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