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Southern hemisphere expected to produce record citrus exports

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South Africa is expected to outsell its competitor, Argentina, in lemon exports this year.

South Africa's citrus export volumes are expected to increase this year, along with all volumes from the southern hemisphere

The Southern Hemisphere Association of Fresh Fruit Exporters (SHAFFE) has forecast that total citrus export volumes during 2017 will be 6% higher year-on-year and 11% higher than the last five-year average.

The trade association, which represents fruit producers in the region, pointed out that orange volumes were forecast to rise 7.5% to 1.5 million metric tons (MT).

Lemon exports of nearly 620 000 MT are 2% up on 2016, while mandarins at 546 000MT are 4% higher. Grapefruit is expected to increase 14% to 240 000MT.

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