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Orange export volumes to be lower than initially expected

14TH JUNE 2024 BY: MARLENY ARNOLDI - DEPUTY EDITOR ONLINE



The Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa (CGA) has revised downwards its estimates for Navel orange

exports this season to 22 – million 15 kg cartons.

The association initially expected 25.6 – million cartons to be exported, but had to revise this estimate by 14.5% following consideration of factors brought up by the Orange Focus Group.

The export estimate for this season's oranges is also 11% lower than that of last year when South Africa exported 24.8 – million cartons of Navel oranges.

Navels make up about 17% of the entire South African citrus

export volume.

The projected export figure of 15 kg cartons of Valencia oranges has also been reduced to just over 56 - million, which is a 4% reduction from the estimate at the beginning of the season.

It is, however, early in the Valencia season and a further reduction is possible.

Last year, South Africa packed 52 - million cartons of Valencias for shipping to foreign markets. Valencias make up about 31% of total citrus export volumes.

The CGA explains that local citrus juicing prices are currently high, which many growers are taking advantage of.

Fruit sizes are also somewhat smaller owing to the warm and dry weather experienced in large parts of the country.

This means there are more individual fruit packed into a 15 kg carton relative to last year. 🍊

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