

Strong supply of southern hemisphere citrus into U.S. market

The southern hemisphere citrus season is in full swing with supply coming from several countries. "We've been witnessing very good quality from South Africa, Argentina, and Uruguay," says Mark Lacey with Lange Farms. Container shipments from South Africa have been arriving steadily since the end of May and the first dedicated vessel was unloaded during the last week of June and contained mandarins, grapefruit, and Navel oranges. "Growing conditions in South Africa have been ideal for all citrus varieties and as a result, quality of all items on the first few vessels that have arrived was very good," commented Lacey.



© Tom Lange Company

Oranges expected to perform well

In terms of volume, the supply of mandarins is heavier this season compared to last while total orange and grapefruit volume is expected to be slightly down compared to last season. "Mandarins remain a household staple, and with early-season volume hitting the U.S. market, we hope demand keeps pace. As a result

of a lighter orange crop, oranges are expected to perform particularly well this season and will likely see strong demand." Grapefruit is also expected to be slightly down in volume, but arrivals did pick up in mid-to-late June. "Last year, grapefruit delivered one of the best eating experiences we've seen, and we expect similar results this year," Lacey said.

For both exporters and importers of South Africa citrus, the tariff situation is a new and evolving challenge. "Understandably, it has made all parties involved a bit nervous and there is a learning curve for everyone as we adapt." Since produce pricing fluctuates frequently, managing a variable 10 percent tariff and the possibility of a 30 percent tariff adds another layer of complexity. "It's something the industry will have to navigate carefully to maintain stable supply chains."



© Tom Lange Company

Lower lemon volume from Argentina

Out of Argentina, a few lemon shipments have arrived, and quality has notably improved compared to last season. "We anticipate a strong market throughout the season as the volume of lemons coming to the U.S. from Argentina is about 30 percent lower this season," shared Lacey. Many growers are shifting product to Europe due to crop shortages on the European continent and prices being more favorable. "That said, our grower partners in Argentina are committed to the U.S. market and view their relationship with us as a long-term strategy. They will support both our business and our clients even as global market dynamics shift."

Uruguay complements Navel shortage

Lange Farms has expanded their sourcing efforts in Uruguay this season. "We are working with excellent growers, supplying Navels and mandarins." The first mandarins have already been received, showing great quality with Brix levels

around 13. Navels are expected to arrive anytime and with the U.S. market being short on Navels, Uruguay has helped supplement that volume. More arrivals of both mandarins and Navels are expected in the coming weeks.



© Tom Lange Company

For more information:

Mark Lacey

Lange Farms

Tel: (+1) 314-934-2876

nkeene@lange-companies.com

www.lange-companies.com (<http://www.lange-companies.com>)

Frontpage photo: © Tom Lange Company

Publication date: Wed 16 Jul 2025

© FreshPlaza.com / Marieke Hemmes

-
-