

BIG IN JAPAN

Cape Town debuts as inspection and shipment point for Japan citrus

For the first season ever, Western Cape citrus growers can have their fruit destined for Japan, inspected and loaded in Cape Town.

During the first week of June this year, citrus destined for Japan was inspected by DAFF at Cape Fruit Coolers close to Cape Town.

Previously, citrus destined for Japan had to be transported from the Cape to KwaZulu-Natal, a journey of about 1,500 km right across the country, where only two cold treatment facilities in Durban were approved to inspect and load all of the SA citrus.

Being able to inspect all fruit destined for Japan in Cape Town (and to ship it directly), will make a big difference for producers in the Western Cape and Northern Cape provinces. This will reduce transport time and cost, and will minimise risks, placing producers on a more sustainable footing.

Mouton Citrus was the first exporter to have fruit inspected and shipped at Cape Fruit Coolers, who have over the years established firm business relationships with Japanese clients in retail. They were instrumental in guiding the process of engagement with DAFF officials to have the facility approved for shipments to Japan. A Japanese inspector audited and approved Cape Fruit Coolers in April.

This development could also pave the way for exports to Japan, of grapefruit from the Orange River and Mandarins from the Boland area, shipped from Cape Town as opposed to Durban.

MITCHELL BROOKE



From left: Niklaas Smit (Mouton Citrus), Faisal Asmal (CGA), Tammy le Roux (Mouton Citrus) and Boet Mouton (Mouton Citrus) at Cape Fruit Coolers.

