

"I have yet to see any problem, however complicated, which, when you looked at it in the right way, did not become still more complicated" Poul Anderson

TRUCK ARRIVALS IN DURBAN STILL HIGH

Week 33 of the export season saw a record 4.8 million cartons of citrus being produced in the northern regions culminating in high truck arrivals to Durban port, which is still facing severe bottlenecks and congestion as a result of a confluence of factors including: a worldwide shortage of shipping containers, the recent cyber-attack against Transnet and the looting and violence in the province, which severely impacted port operations. The Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa (CGA) therefore met with stakeholders across the citrus value chain last Friday, including Transnet, shipping line operators, cold storage operators and growers to get an update on the situation and to discuss mitigation measures. It was agreed that a notice be sent out to all growers in the northern region alerting them to the current backlogs and requesting that they communicate with their service providers across the supply chain and only pack fruit if they have guaranteed sufficient cold storage available, and have received communication that there are also containers available to load fruit into. The CGA will continue to engage with all role players to ensure the remaining citrus crop for the 2021 season is processed by the Durban port and shipped to overseas markets over the coming weeks.

REVISED PROTOCOL FOR CITRUS SHIPMENTS TO CHINA NOW IN FORCE

This week Department Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) received the signed protocol which revises the shipping temperature for disinfestation of lemons destined for China. DALRRD has informed industry that this protocol can now be implemented. The revised protocol for the export of citrus from South Africa to China changes the disinfestation treatment for lemons – increasing the shipping temperature. This is very important for lemons as they are a fruit that is susceptible to cold damage at low shipping temperatures. The signing and publication of this revised protocol is very important for the lemon sector of the South African citrus industry. Until now very few lemon consignments have been exported to China due to the disinfestation treatment requirements. It is anticipated that this change will result in increased exports of lemons to China – where the demand for lemons is good. It is also anticipated that South Africa will send some shipments of lemons to China under this revised protocol in 2021 as a precursor to larger volumes in 2022. The Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa (CGA) would like to thank China Plant Health (GACC) and Department Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) for finalising this revised protocol.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

As we scramble to the end of the season, the grapefruit prediction was increased (slightly), while navel and lemon predictions were increased by 0.5 million and 1 million cartons respectively. This brings the prediction up to 159 million cartons.

Ninety percent of soft citrus is now packed and passed for export with just under 3 million late mandarin cartons to pack; while Valencia oranges are now 2/3 rds complete.

End of Week 34 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB/AGRIHUB	2019	2020	2021	2020	2021	2021	2021	2020
Grapefruit (17kg)			15.2 m		13.6 m			
Grapefruit	16.5 m	14.6 m	17.2 m	13.4 m	15.4 m	18 m	17.4 m	15.5 m
Soft Citrus	16.9 m	21.4 m	27.3 m	19.4 m	23 m	30.5 m	30.2 m	23.6 m
Lemons	20.7 m	26.5 m	28.9 m	24.3 m	26.6 m	30.2 m	29.5 m	29.6 m
Navels	22.7 m	24.8 m	25.7 m	22.4 m	22.8 m	26.3 m	26.7 m	26.2 m
Valencia	29 m	34.4 m	34.7 m	25.4 m	21.4 m	58 m	55.2 m	55.1 m
Total	105.8 m	121.7 m	133.8 m	104.9 m	109.2 m	163 m	159 m	150 m