

“Here's something to think about: How come you never see a headline like 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?”

Jay Leno

CLAIRVOYANT OR SOCIAL MEDIA

EU plant health (DG SANTE) have either changed their manner of communicating their decisions, or they expect trading partners to be able to see into the future. DG SANTE expected South Africa to have implemented their unjustified, scientifically flawed, unnecessary and disproportionate measures on FCM BEFORE the South African National Plant Protection Organisation (Department Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)) had even received official notice of the new measures. In DG SANTE's correspondence they state that DALRRD “should have known what was coming”. We are unsure if southern Africa should have known due to the Minister of Agriculture in Spain tweeting about his political victory (he was tweeting even before the votes had been counted); or whether DALRRD is meant to have a crystal ball that allows them to know DG SANTE's changed measures before they publish them.

This charade is becoming ridiculous – and threatens the clearance of hundreds of containers of southern African oranges that are already on the water. Surely this is no way to treat a trading partner of over one hundred years, and surely this is not how the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) dictates that new measures are informed and implemented. This is not a risk that requires emergency measures – indeed if it was, one would expect stronger measures against those with significantly greater interceptions over the past three years. Have some sympathy for Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) – in 2020 and 2021 they had ZERO interceptions (nil, nada, none) – and yet these ridiculous new measures have also been thrust onto their orange exports to EU.

This is a sad day for science and I am sure all real scientists around the world must be watching this charade unfold with a lot of concern – measures are now published with no regard to technical justification and based purely on political protectionism.

Surely sense must prevail.

MESSAGE FROM CITRUS ACADEMY

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PACKED AND SHIPPED

The variety focus groups have actively considered their predictions for the remainder of 2022 and reduced export volumes by 3.7 million cartons. The reduction is mostly from the Navel Focus Group (down 1.5 million) and Grapefruit Focus Group (down by 1.1 million). Smaller decreases from Valencia Focus Group (600 000), Mandarin Focus Group (down 400 000) and Lemon Focus Group (100 000).

End of Week 25 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB/AGRIHUB	2020	2021	2022	2021	2022	2022	2022	2021
Grapefruit PP (17kg)		2.1 m	2.4 m	1.6 m	1.7 m			
Grapefruit Class1&2 (17kg)		10.1 m	9.6 m	9.6 m	8.2 m			
Grapefruit	12.8 m	13.8 m	13.6 m	12.7 m	11.2 m	16.8 m	15.7 m	17.5 m
Mandarins	11.1 m	13.7 m	12.8 m	9.9 m	10.7 m	34.5 m	34.1 m	30.9 m
Lemons	19.0 m	18.9 m	20.5 m	16.0 m	18.5 m	32.3 m	32.2 m	31.0 m
Navels	13.6 m	14.6 m	12.7 m	9.3 m	9.1 m	28.7 m	27.2 m	27.2 m
Valencia	3.7 m	4.6 m	3.2 m	2.4 m	1.5 m	58.2 m	57.6 m	55.0 m
Total	60.2 m	65.6 m	62.8 m	50.3 m	51.0 m	170.5 m	166.8 m	161.6 m