

"Tolerance becomes a crime when applied to evil" Thomas Mann

LEMON FOCUS GROUP ADJUSTS PREDICTION

The Lemon Focus Group of the Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa (CGA) met on the 30th of July to review export estimates. Although the lemon season is drawing to a close, and some areas have finished packing, feedback from the remaining harvesting areas has necessitated a further downward adjustment of the overall export estimate.

At the start of the lemon season, the export of 37.9 million 15kg cartons of lemons was projected. This has been reduced during meetings held throughout the season. This week's adjustment brings the total estimate for 2024 exports of lemons to 33.9 million cartons. Last year, Southern Africa exported 35.6 million cartons.

Adjustments this week by the Sundays River Valley (down almost 1 million cartons) and the Western Cape (Citrusdal down 100 000 cartons) were the most significant. Strong winds in the Sundays River Valley and flooding in Citrusdal have had an impact on these figures.

The overall lemon estimate follows a pattern that has become clear as the citrus season progressed: due to drier weather causing fruit sizes to be somewhat smaller, good local juicing prices, as well as recent severe weather events, less 15kg cartons of citrus will be exported than expected.

Leroux Venter, Chairman of the Lemon Focus Group, contextualised the adjustment: "There is a clear swing in the figures. It has been a very unusual season. While there was an initial concern that there might be an oversupply of lemons, this is definitely not the case anymore. Supply will be relatively stable and the demand, especially in Europe, looks good."

SOUTH AFRICA CALLS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO PANELS AT WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY

On Friday 26 July, South Africa requested the establishment of two panels at a meeting of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to examine what, in South Africa's view, are unscientific and discriminatory measures placed on citrus imported from South Africa by the European Union (EU).

The initial requests for establishment of the panels were made on 24 June 2024 and were not accepted by the EU. In line with the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding, the second panel requests made on 26 July were automatically approved. These WTO dispute settlement steps were taken to address the EU's regulations on Citrus Black Spot (CBS) and False Codling Moth (FCM). The regulations are being challenged by the South African government to protect the livelihoods of tens of thousands of people in the local citrus industry.

Currently, South African citrus growers are spending billions of rands per year to comply with CBS and FCM measures that are unscientific and unnecessarily restrictive, as South Africa already has an effective world-class risk management system that ensures safe citrus exports. Emerging citrus growers are especially hit hard by these measures. The measures at issue affect not only South Africa but also other southern African countries that depend on SA's infrastructure for their citrus fruit exports.

CITRUS ACADEMY HR FORUM

The HR Forum is set for **Wednesday, 7 August 2024**. This will be a remote event via **Zoom from 10:00 to 12:00** and is an informative skills development space for sharing insights, asking questions, and connecting with fellow HR and skills development professionals. Join us for lively discussions, solid advice, and the latest skills development trends. Please register on our website <https://citrusacademy.org.za/hr-forum-2024/> and we will send you the Zoom link.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

End of Week 30 Million 15 kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed	Vision 260
SOURCE: PPECB/AGRIHUB	2022	2023	2024	2023	2024	2024	2024	2023	2024
Grapefruit	15.9 m	12.7 m	13.1 m	11.9 m	12.1 m	16.8 m	14.9 m	14.7 m	16.2 m
Mandarins	23.7 m	28.2 m	28.3 m	23.2 m	21.2 m	43.0 m	42.7 m	38.0 m	39.6 m
Lemons	32.1 m	33.3 m	30.6 m	31.6 m	27.2 m	37.9 m	33.9 m	35.6 m	39.0 m
Navels	23.0 m	20.9 m	18.0 m	17.2 m	14.8 m	25.7 m	21.0 m	24.8 m	22.3 m
Valencia	17.8 m	18.1 m	15.5 m	13.2 m	9.9 m	58.3 m	51.6 m	52.0 m	55.4 m
Total	112.5 m	113.2 m	105.5 m	97.1 m	85.2 m	181.7m	164.1 m	165.1 m	172.5 m