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Report Highlights:

In marketing year (MY) 2025/26, South Africa's production of oranges, grapefruit, tangerines/mandarins, and lemons is forecast to increase from MY 2024/25, driven by normal weather conditions and young trees reaching maturity. This growth is expected to support higher export volumes. South Africa is estimated to have exported record citrus volumes to the United States in MY 2024/25, as the industry expanded and expedited shipments ahead of the August import tariff implementation. MY 2025/26 orange juice production is forecast to decrease, as more oranges are directed toward the fresh export market.

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Executive Summary

Oranges: Production of oranges in MY 2025/26 is forecast to grow by one percent based on young trees coming into production. This increase in production is expected to support higher domestic consumption and exports compared to MY 2024/25. In MY 2024/25, South Africa exported a record volume of oranges to the United States. The U.S. granted an exemption for oranges from the August import tariff, which is likely to further benefit exports in MY 2025/26.

Grapefruit: Grapefruit production in MY 2025/26 is forecast to increase by one percent, supported by normal weather conditions. FAS Pretoria forecasts that domestic consumption in MY 2025/26 will improve slightly based on recently launched promotional campaigns. The anticipated production increase is expected to boost export supply. In MY 2024/25, South Africa is estimated to export record volumes of grapefruit to the United States, following a 29 percent year-to-date increase.

Tangerines/Mandarins: FAS Pretoria forecasts that tangerines/mandarins (categorized in South Africa as “soft citrus”) production in MY 2025/26 will increase by two percent based on normal weather conditions and young trees coming into full production. Domestic consumption is expected to rise by two percent, supported by increased production and growing demand. In MY 2024/25, South Africa is estimated to export record volumes of soft citrus to the United States, following a 32 percent year-to-date increase.

Lemons: Lemon production in MY 2025/26 is forecast to grow by four percent from MY 2024/25 based on normal weather conditions and availability of water for irrigation. Higher production and improved fruit quality are expected to boost exports by three percent. However, prices for lemons destined for processing have weakened and are considered unprofitable. As a result, the volume of lemons sold for processing in MY 2025/26 is forecast to decline compared to MY 2024/25.

Orange juice: FAS Pretoria forecasts that orange juice production in MY 2025/26 will decrease by nine percent reflecting a decline in oranges delivered for processing. Domestic consumption of orange juice in MY 2025/26 is projected to fall by one percent from MY 2024/25, due to higher retail prices and availability of alternative beverages. Despite lower production, orange juice exports in MY 2025/26 are forecast to increase, supported by existing stock levels.

Report Notes

The marketing year (MY) for grapefruit and lemons is January-December, oranges and tangerines/mandarins MY is considered February-January while orange juice MY is April-March. The exchange rate used in this report (as of December 11, 2025) is 16.91 South African Rand (ZAR) to one U.S. dollar (USD).

Background

Citrus in South Africa is mainly produced in Limpopo, Eastern Cape, Western Cape and Mpumalanga provinces (see **Figure 1**). The Western Cape and Eastern Cape have a cooler climate, which is well suited for the production of the navel oranges, lemons and easy peelers such as Clementines and Satsumas. The Mpumalanga, Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) provinces have a warmer climate, which is better suited to the cultivation of grapefruit and Valencia oranges.

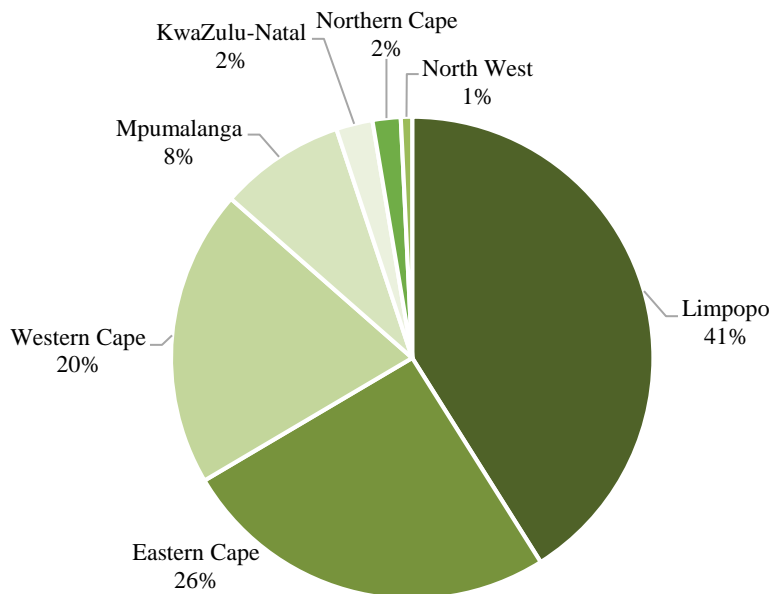
Figure 1: Citrus Growing Regions in South Africa



Source: Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Note: Navel, Valencia and Midseason are categorized as oranges in the report, and soft citrus includes tangerines/mandarins.

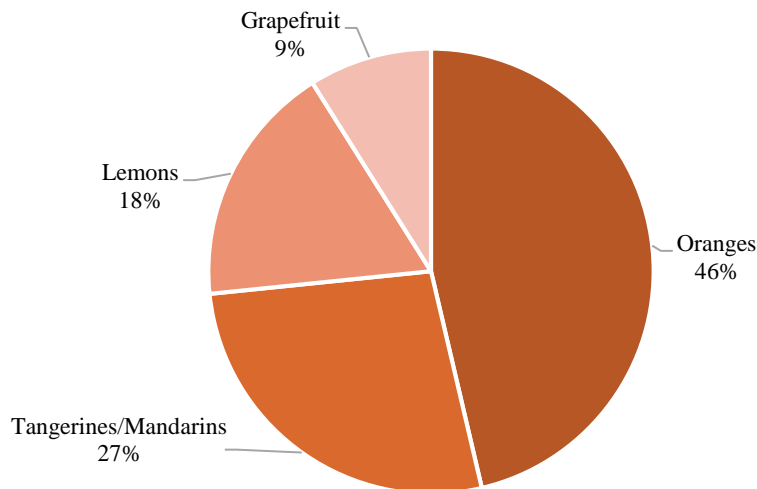
Figure 2: Citrus Producing Regions by Area



Source: FAS Pretoria using CGA data

Figure 3 shows that oranges are the biggest citrus type produced in South Africa and accounted for 46 percent of the total citrus area planted in MY 2023/24. Tangerines/Mandarins have, however, shown the largest increase in the share of total citrus production, from a share of about 16 percent in MY2015/16 to 27 percent in MY 2023/24.

Figure 3: Distribution of Citrus Types



Source: FAS Pretoria using CGA data

Table 1 shows the most common citrus varieties planted in South Africa. Star Ruby is the most planted grapefruit variety, although recent budwood sales indicate significantly declining interest in grapefruits. Producers prefer Valencia oranges over Navels as Valencia's have a longer shelf

life and produce higher yields than Navels. Nadorcott is one of the most popular soft citrus cultivars in South Africa.

Table 1: Citrus Varieties

Citrus	Variety
Grapefruit	Star Ruby, Marsh, Jackson, Pomelit, Rose, Redheart
Oranges	Valencia/Midseason: Midnight, Valencia Late, Delta, Turkey, Bennie, Du Roi, Gusocora, Jassie
	Navels: Cambria, Palmer, Bahianinha, Washington, Witkrans, Cara Cara, Navelina, Robyn, Lane Late, Autumn Gold, Newhall
Tangerines/Mandarins	Satsumas: Miho Wase, Queen, Owari, Belabela, Miyagawa Wase
	Clementines: Mules, Andes-1, Octubrina, Esbal, Marisol
	Mandarins: Nadorcott, Nadocorcott Ls, Tango, Nova, Leanri, Orri, Rhm, Mor, Valley Gold, Tambor, Sigal
Lemons/Lime	Eureka, Lisbon, 2Ph Seedless, Limoneira 8A, Genoa, Eureka Seedless, Lemoneria

Source: CGA

Table 2: South Africa Harvest Period for Citrus

Citrus	Harvest Period
Marsh Grapefruit	March to June
Star Ruby Grapefruit	March to September
Navel Oranges	March to July
Valencia Oranges	May to September
Tangerines/Mandarins	March to August
Lemons/Lime	January to August

Source: CGA

Oranges, Fresh

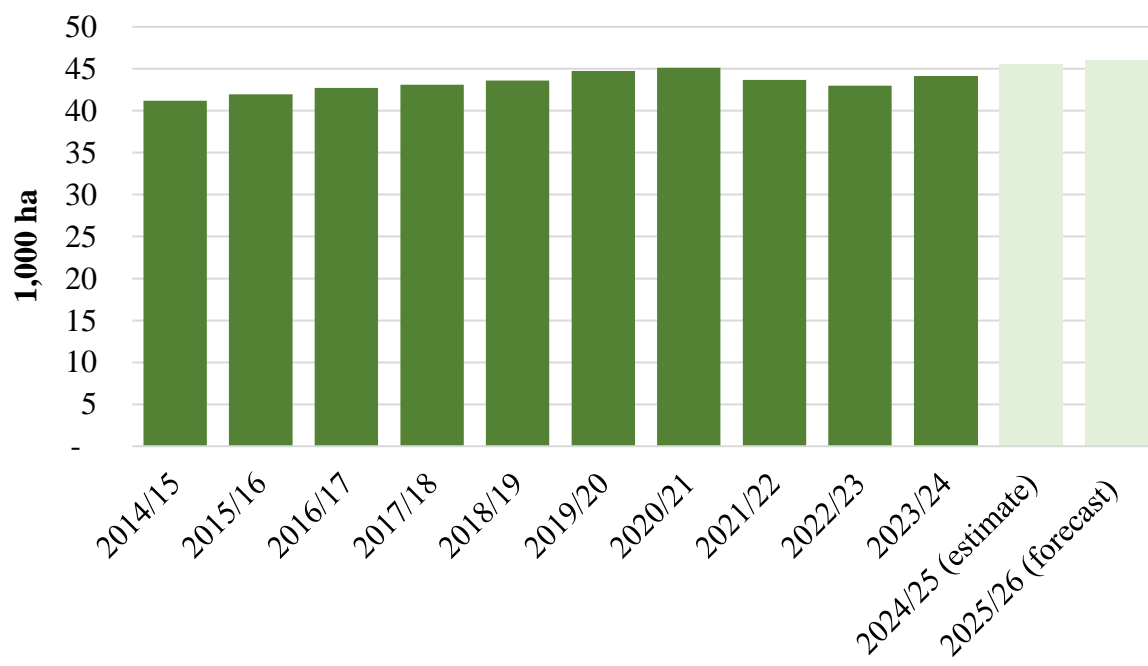
Crop Area

Nursery orders for orange trees have increased following higher juicing prices, driven by a decline in orange production from Brazil since 2024. FAS Pretoria contacts report optimism that juicing prices will remain above normal in the short term. As a result, growers are expected to send more fruit for juicing, which offers a lower-risk market alternative without shipping and packing costs. Although juicing prices eased in MY 2024/25, they remain above pre-MY 2023/24 levels.

FAS Pretoria contacts indicate that orange tree orders remained strong in MY 2024/25, a trend expected to continue in MY 2025/26. Orders in MY 2024/25 favored Valencia varieties. Additionally, growers appear to be replacing some early navel varieties with late navel varieties to align with market demand. In MY 2023/24, Valencia nursery stocks were sold out, with tree orders dominated by Bennie, Jassie, Turkey, and Midnight Valencia varieties. Further, growers have been putting up hail nets to improve fruit yield and quality.

Therefore, FAS Pretoria forecasts that the area planted to oranges will increase by two percent in MY 2025/26, reaching 46,000 hectares. The area planted in MY 2023/24 is slightly revised to 44,166 hectares based on finalized data, while the MY 2024/25 estimate is revised upward due to strong nursery orders. **Figure 4** illustrates the historical trend in orange planted area, with MY 2025/26 production forecast at a record high.

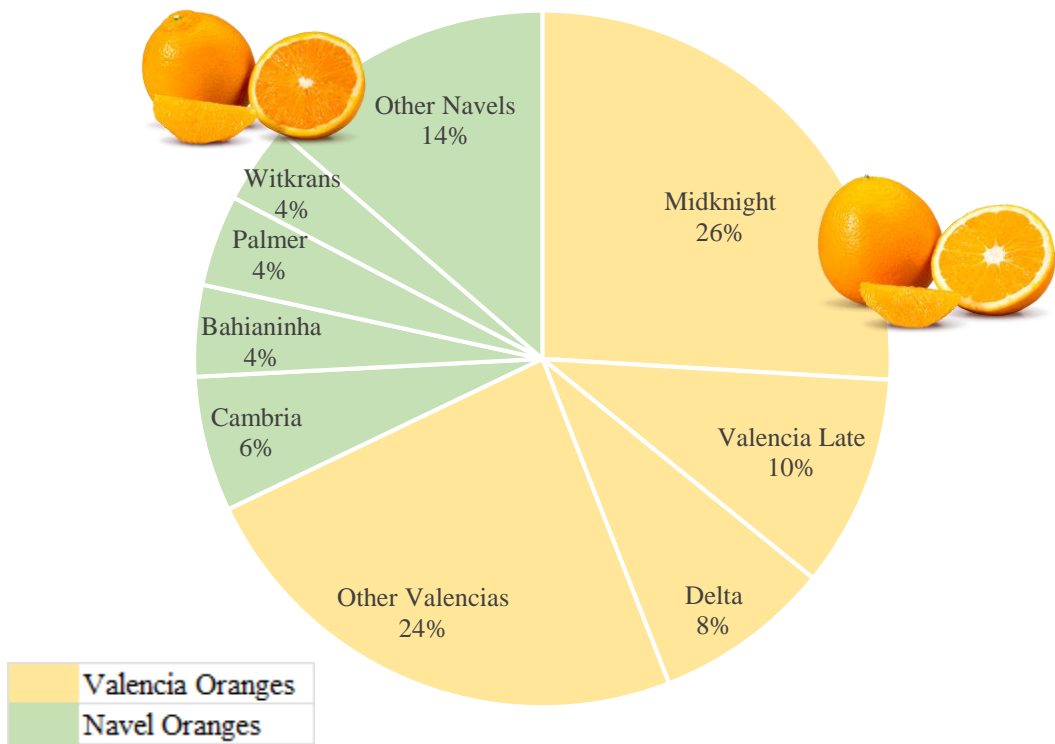
Figure 4: South African Orange Planted Area



Source: FAS Pretoria using CGA data

Limpopo province is the leading orange-growing region in South Africa, accounting for 50 percent of total area, followed by the Eastern Cape (24 percent) and Western Cape (15 percent) provinces (see **Figure 3**).

Figure 5: Orange Varieties Produced in South Africa



Source: *FAS Pretoria using CGA data*

Valencias account for two-thirds of total orange area, with Navels accounting for the other third. The predominant cultivar planted is the Midnight, representing 26 percent of total area, followed by the Valencia Late (10 percent), Delta (9 percent), Bennie (7 percent), and Turkey (7 percent) cultivars. Other cultivars planted in South Africa include Cambria, Palmer, Bahianinha, and Washington.

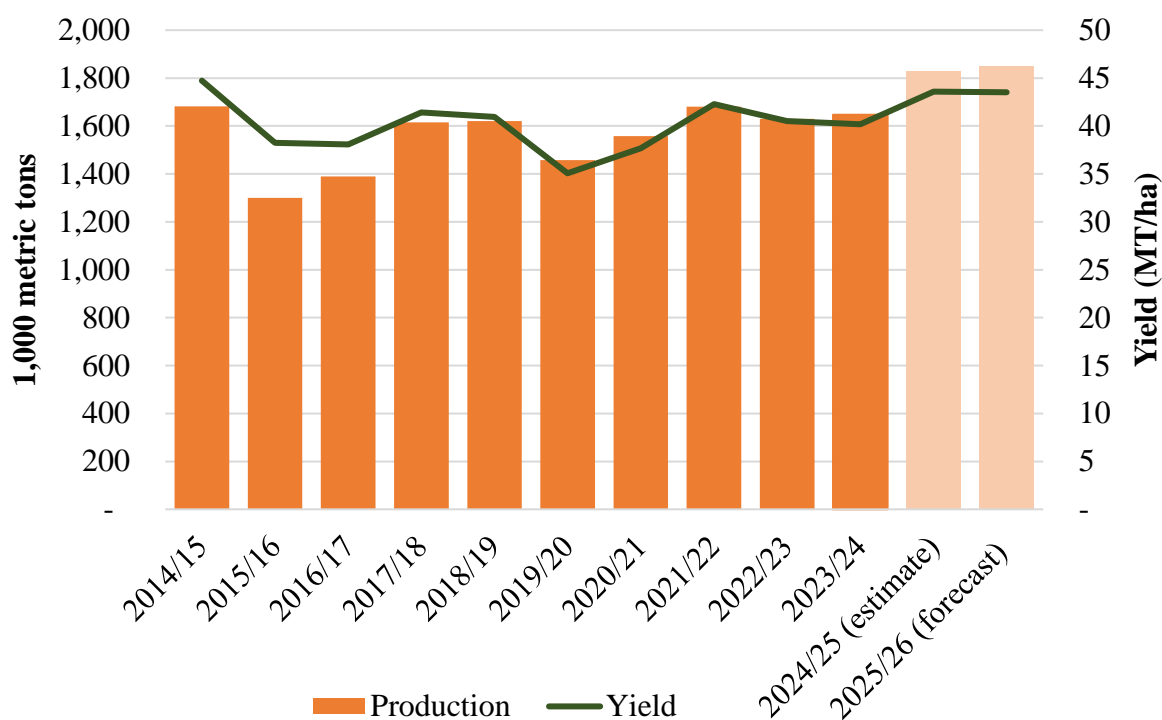
Production

FAS Pretoria forecasts that MY 2025/26 orange production will increase by one percent from MY 2024/25 based on normal weather conditions, young trees coming into full production, and enhanced growing efficiencies.

MY 2024/25 production is revised upwards to 1,830 million metric tons (MMT), representing a 11 percent increase year-on-year based on young trees coming to full production and availability of water for irrigation. Production was boosted by early color development in the Northern region and improved fruit size. The MY 2024/25 season started two weeks earlier than the previous season. Growth of navel oranges was driven by increase in production of late navels.

FAS Pretoria maintains MY 2023/24 production at 1,674 MMT. **Figure 6** shows South Africa's orange production volumes since MY 2014/15.

Figure 6: South African Orange Production



Source: FAS Pretoria using DOA data

Consumption

Fresh oranges are the most widely consumed citrus in South Africa. Producers prioritize supplying export markets, while fruit that does not meet export standards is usually used for fresh domestic consumption and for processing. In MY 2025/26, FAS Pretoria forecasts that orange consumption will increase to 40,000 MT on an increase in domestic production. In MY 2024/25, consumption is revised upwards on increased domestic production. Processing prices are reported to have decreased slightly compared to MY 2023/24; therefore, fruit that would have otherwise been sent for processing was likely sold as fresh. MY 2023/24 domestic consumption remains unchanged.

Exports

The South African export season typically starts around week 16 (April) with Navels and week 21 (May) with Valencia oranges. The season typically concludes around week 45 (November). Approximately 81 percent of exports are shipped through the Durban port, 12 percent from Cape Town, and 7 percent from Gqeberha and Ngqura (see **Figure 1** for map).

FAS Pretoria forecasts that MY 2025/26 orange exports will increase by four percent from MY 2024/25 on increased production of exportable oranges, improved port performance, and increased demand in the export market, especially for juice processing.

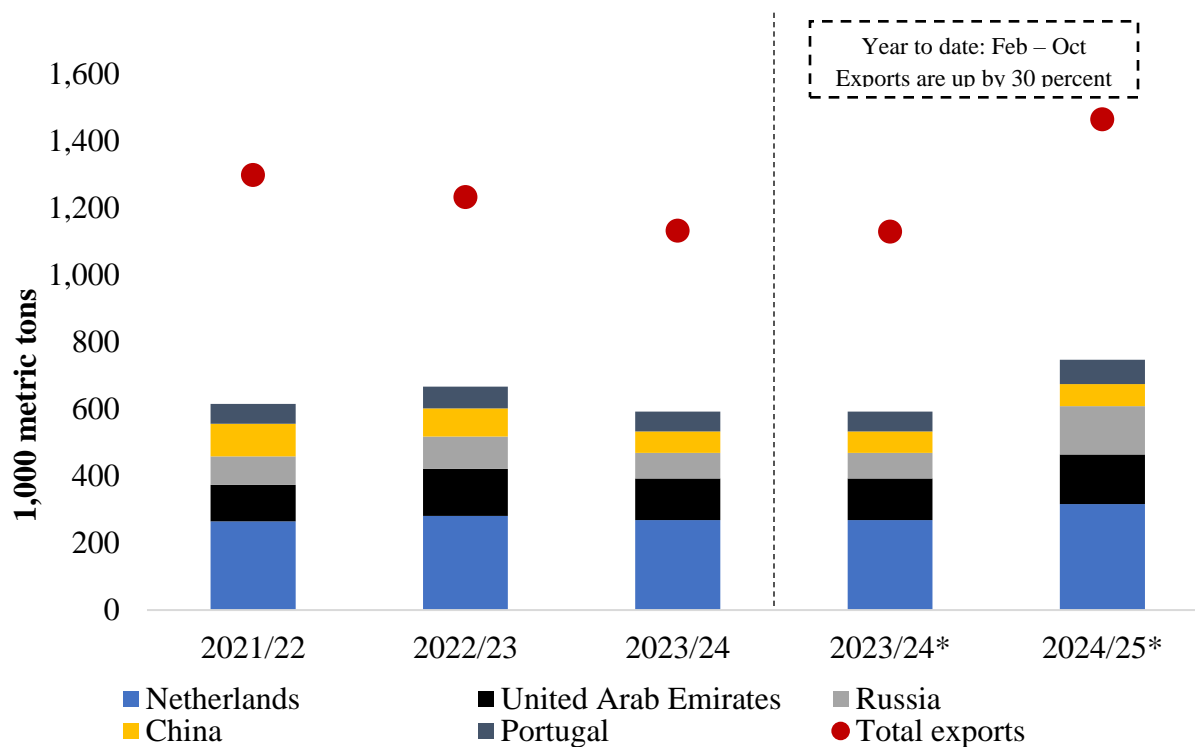
FAS Pretoria estimates that orange exports for MY 2024/25 increased by 24 percent compared to MY 2023/24. The season started almost two weeks earlier compared to MY 2023/24, granting South Africa earlier access, especially in the European market. This record export is attributed to higher production of export-quality fruit, improved port performance, and increased demand from importing countries. FAS Pretoria also reports that exports in MY 2024/25 benefited from improved fruit sizes, following a season of smaller fruit in MY 2023/24. Orange exports are approximately 34 percent navels and 66 percent Valencias, reflecting the proportion of area planted to each orange type. With juicing prices easing in MY 2024/25, FAS Pretoria estimates that more oranges were directed to the export market, in contrast to MY 2023/24, when higher juicing prices encouraged growers to divert export volumes to juice production.

FAS Pretoria revises MY 2023/24 orange export figures upward by 20,000 MT based on finalized trade data. Despite this adjustment, exports still represent an eight percent year-on-year decrease, primarily due to a greater volume of fruit being diverted to juice processing. Adverse weather conditions also resulted in the loss of export-quality fruit, and growers faced challenges in securing sufficient volumes for export.

South Africa exports oranges to more than 100 countries worldwide, but the European Union (EU) remains its largest export market, accounting for approximately 37 percent of total orange exports. Despite a free trade agreement with the EU that allows duty-free access for citrus exports, South Africa continues to face phytosanitary challenges in the market due to citrus black spot (CBS) and false codling moth (FCM) (see policy section, page 41). Orange exports to the EU from February to October in MY 2024/25 increased by 21 percent compared to the same period in MY 2023/24, due to higher South African domestic production. South Africa concluded its early export campaign for oranges from CBS-affected areas on September 20, 2025. As a result, oranges from these regions reached the EU by mid-October, coinciding with the end of the export season.

South Africa exported approximately 3,476 MT of oranges to Vietnam in MY 2024/25 after an establishment of a new bilateral protocol announced in March 2024 (see policy section page 41).

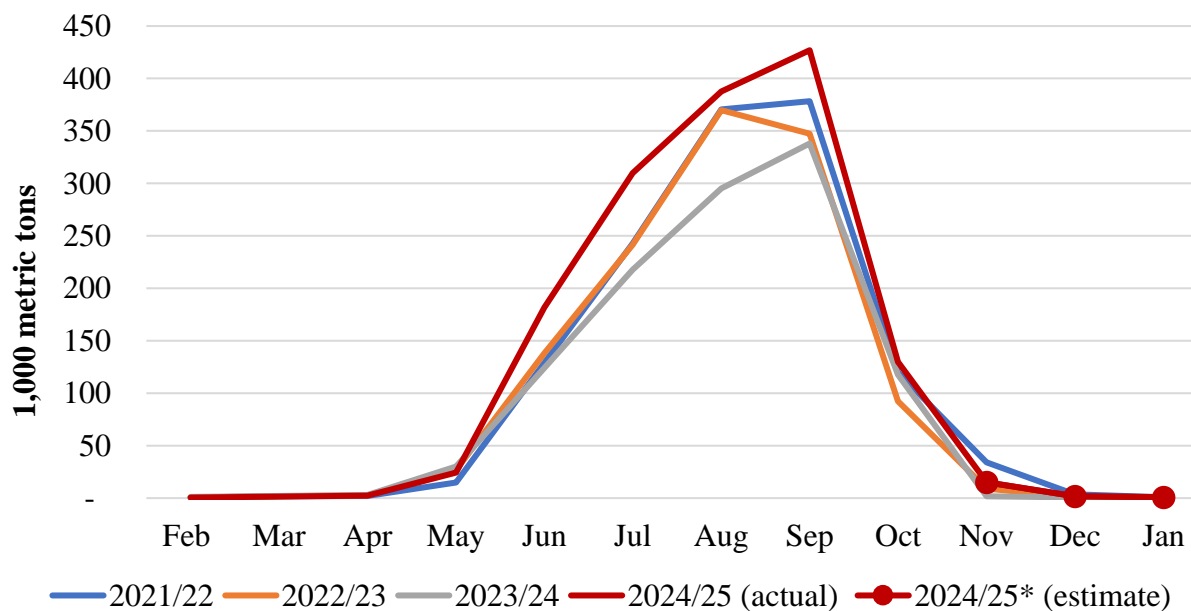
Figure 7: South African Fresh Orange Exports



*Year to date: February – October

Source: *FAS Pretoria using Trade Data Monitor, LLC.*

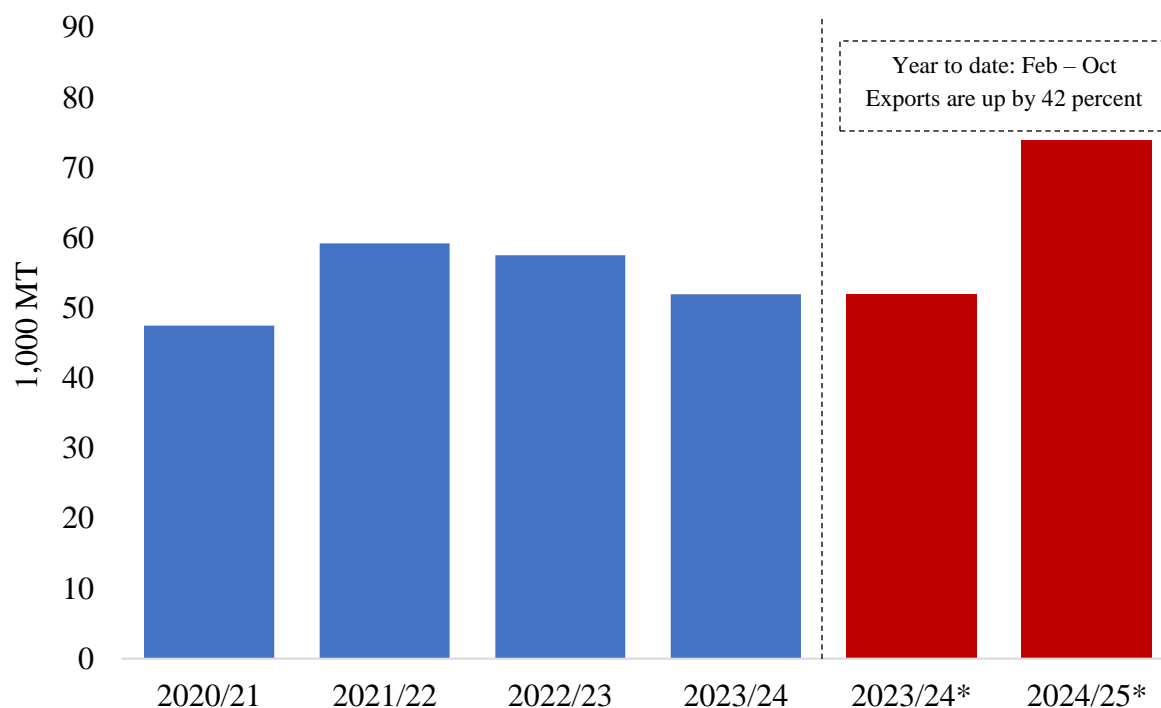
Figure 8: South African Weekly Fresh Orange Exports



Source: *FAS Pretoria using Trade Data Monitor, LLC.*

South Africa exports approximately four percent of its total orange production to the United States, primarily during the U.S. summer months. In MY 2024/25, the first shipment of South African oranges arrived in the United States during the third week of June, with weekly shipments continuing throughout the season. The export season begins with Navels, followed by Cara Cara, and concludes with Midnight oranges.

Figure 9: South Africa Exports Record Oranges to the United States



*Year to date: February – October

Source: FAS Pretoria using Trade Data Monitor, LLC.

In August 2025, the United States implemented a 30 percent tariff on South African citrus, including oranges. In response, South African industry expedited citrus shipments to the United States before the tariff took effect. As a result, year-to-date data for MY 2024/25 (February–October) show that South Africa increased its orange exports to the United States by 42 percent, reaching record volumes.

The United States granted an exemption from the August import tariff in November 2025 specifically for oranges. The timing of this exemption means that the full benefits will likely be realized during the 2026 export season, as South Africa's orange exports to the United States typically conclude around October.

Imports

Relatively small volumes of oranges are imported into South Africa in November and December to close supply gaps. FAS Pretoria forecasts that orange imports will increase slightly from 6,000 MT in MY 2024/25 to 7,000 MT due to increased supply from Eswatini and Botswana. FAS

Pretoria revises MY 2024/25 exports upwards to 6,000 MT as South Africa imported its first oranges from Botswana. The Botswana citrus industry is increasing its production, with young trees coming into production, therefore, even in the MY 2025/26, FAS Pretoria expects that volumes from Botswana will increase. FAS Pretoria lowers MY 2023/24 orange imports to 2,883 MT based on finalized data and sufficient local supply.

Prices

Table 3 indicates the average local, export, and processed market prices of oranges over the past seven years. The export market continues to provide the highest prices, mainly due to the strong foreign demand. Average prices for processing peaked in MY 2023/24 due to a surge in the demand for orange juice, however, FAS Pretoria contacts report that these prices have eased slightly MY 2024/25, although they remain higher than pre-MY 2023/24 prices.

Table 3: Orange Prices in South Africa

MY	Average Price (rand/MT)		
	Local Market	Export Market	Processed
2014/15	2,545	6,628	654
2015/16	3,635	8,570	1,002
2016/17	3,605	8,668	1,072
2017/18	3,361	8,600	693
2018/19	3,643	8,268	699
2019/20	4,897	10,329	519
2020/21	3,999	8,989	639
2021/22	3,350	9,635	643
2022/23	4,389	11,827	1,090
2023/24	6,554	12,341	3,733

Source: FAS Pretoria using CGA data

Table 4: Orange Production, Supply, and Distribution

Oranges, Fresh Market Year Begins South Africa	2023/2024		2024/2025		2025/2026	
	Feb 2024		Feb 2025		Feb 2026	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (HECTARES)	44000	44166	44500	45000	0	46000
Area Harvested (HECTARES)	41000	41000	41300	42000	0	42500
Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	39280	39280	39150	42300	0	43500
Non-Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	4800	4800	5100	5200	0	5500
Total No. Of Trees (1000 TREES)	44080	44080	44250	47500	0	49000
Production (1000 MT)	1675	1675	1690	1830	0	1850
Imports (1000 MT)	5	3	3	6	0	7
Total Supply (1000 MT)	1680	1678	1693	1836	0	1857
Exports (1000 MT)	1111	1132	1100	1400	0	1450
Fresh Dom. Consumption (1000 MT)	22	22	22	34	0	40
For Processing (1000 MT)	547	524	571	402	0	367
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	1680	1678	1693	1836	0	1857
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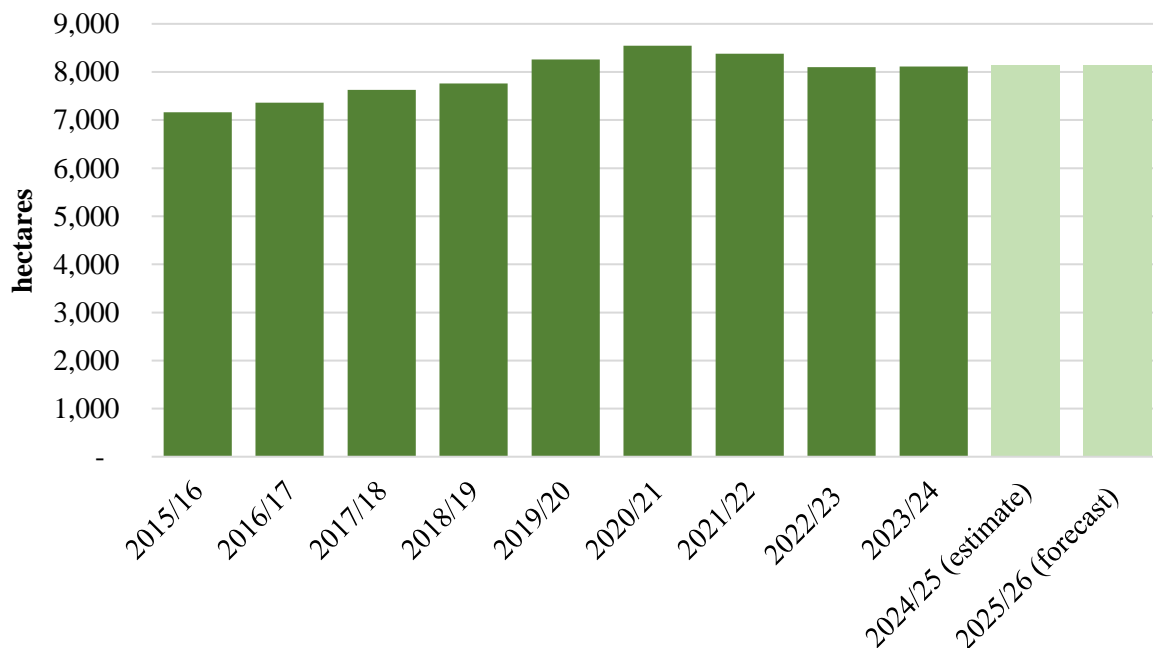
Grapefruit, Fresh

Crop Area

The area under grapefruit production declined from MY 2020/21 to MY 2022/23 and appears to have stabilized since then, as growers limit new plantings and uproot older trees. This decline reflects a steady downward trend in global grapefruit consumption. Budwood sales reached their lowest level in MY 2023/24 since MY 2016/17, suggesting that growers are shifting toward other citrus types such as Valencia oranges and easy peelers.

The citrus industry launched a grapefruit promotional campaign in 2025 to increase awareness of South African grapefruit and boost demand. While this campaign is unlikely to result in immediate expansion of production area, it may encourage growers to retain existing hectares under cultivation. Additionally, anticipated increases in both export and juicing prices are expected to further encourage growers to retain planted area. Therefore, FAS Pretoria forecasts that the area under grapefruit production in MY 2025/26 will remain unchanged at 8,150 hectares from MY 2024/25.

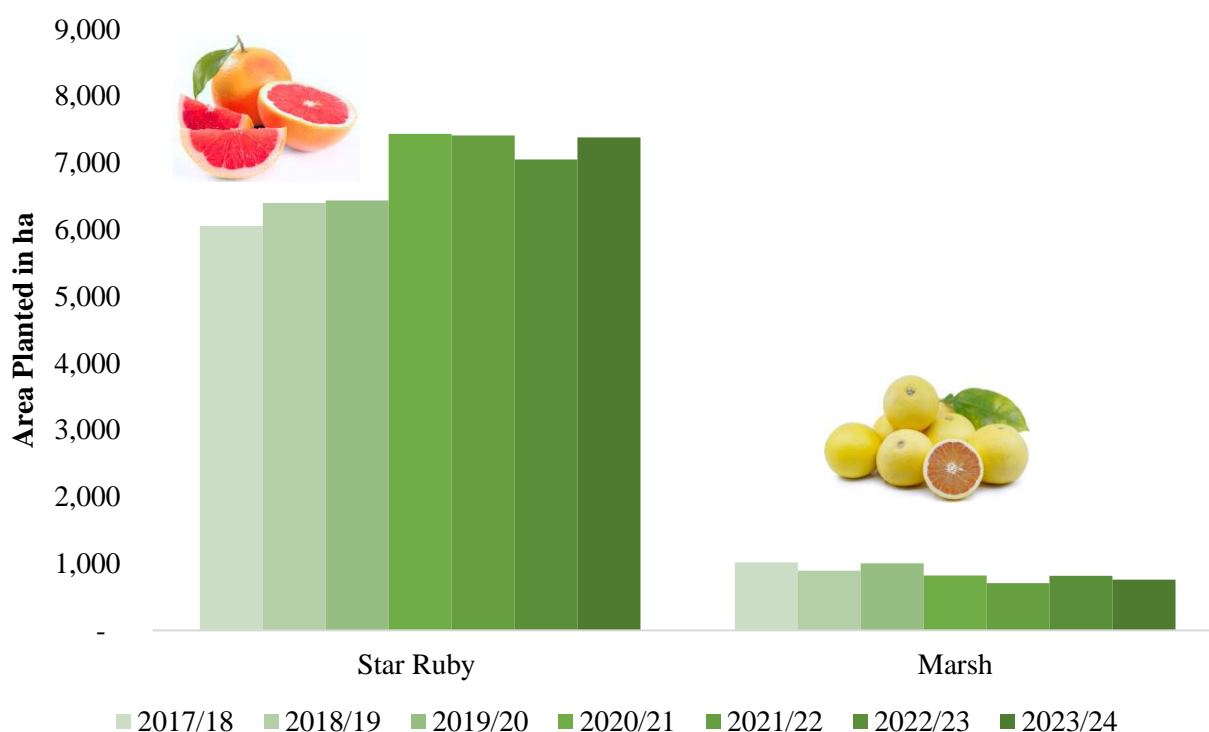
Figure 10: Grapefruit Planted Area in South Africa



Source: FAS Pretoria using Citrus Growers Association (CGA) data

Limpopo province is the leading growing region for grapefruit in South Africa, accounting for 60 percent of total area planted, followed by Mpumalanga (19 percent), KwaZulu-Natal (11 percent), and Northern Cape (7 percent) provinces. Star Ruby is the predominant cultivar planted, accounting for 88 percent of total area. Other grapefruit cultivars planted in South Africa include Marsh, Fe 1 (Jackson), Pomelit, Rose, and Redheart.

Figure 11: South African Grapefruit Planted Area



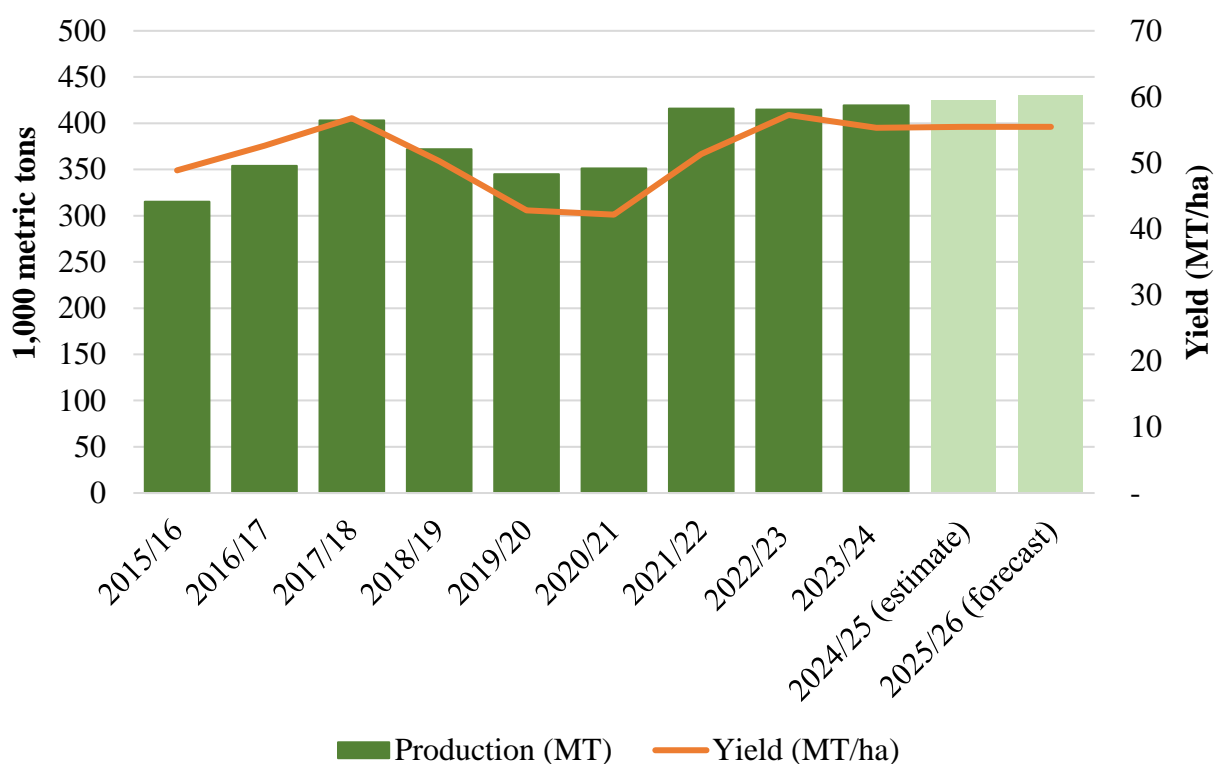
Source: *FAS Pretoria using CGA data*

Production

FAS Pretoria forecasts that grapefruit production in MY 2025/26 will increase by one percent to 430,000 MT, based on normal weather conditions and sufficient water for irrigation in major producing regions.

FAS Pretoria maintains MY 2024/25 production estimate at 425,000 MT, also a one percent year-on-year increase, attributed to favorable weather and adequate irrigation. However, some growing regions experienced color development issues that affected fruit quality. MY 2023/24 estimate remains unchanged. **Figure 12** illustrates grapefruit production and yields in South Africa since MY 2015/16.

Figure 12: Grapefruit Production in South Africa



Source: FAS Pretoria using DOA data

Consumption

Grapefruit remains an unpopular citrus fruit in the South African domestic market, with many consumers unfamiliar with its qualities and taste. As a result, demand for fresh grapefruit in South Africa is limited. In 2025, the citrus industry launched a campaign to promote domestic consumption of grapefruit, particularly targeting younger consumers.

FAS Pretoria forecasts that domestic consumption will increase to 4,000 MT in MY 2025/26, up from 3,100 MT in MY 2024/25 based on increased production and promotional campaigns. FAS Pretoria has also revised its estimate for MY 2024/25 domestic consumption slightly upward to 3,100 MT, reflecting increased domestic supply. In MY 2023/24, juicing prices for grapefruit were higher than usual, diverting volumes away from fresh consumption. As a result, Post maintains its local grapefruit consumption in MY 2023/24 at 2,000 MT.

Processing

FAS Pretoria forecasts that South Africa will reduce the volume of fruit sold for processing by three percent, due to an increase in the production of export-quality fruit. Exported grapefruit and fresh sales in the local market command higher prices than processed fruit (see **Table 5** on Page 20).

According to FAS Pretoria contacts, processing prices declined slightly in MY 2024/25, while fruit size improved compared to MY 2023/24. As a result, FAS Pretoria estimates that volumes sold for processing have decreased by 12 percent year on year. In MY 2023/24, there was increased production of smaller-sized grapefruit and a slight drop in processing prices. Therefore, FAS Pretoria maintains the MY 2023/24 processing volume estimate at 207,000 MT.

Grapefruit is processed to juice and concentrate, the majority of which is exported to Europe. The leftover pulp from commercial juice extraction is an important source of grapefruit oil, which is used as a flavoring agent in many soft drinks and an ingredient in fragrances. The inner peel is a source of pectin and citric acid, which are both used by the food industry to preserve fruits, jams, and marmalades. Naringin is also extracted from grapefruit peel and gives tonic-water its distinctive bitter flavor.

Exports

The most exported grapefruit variety from South Africa is Star Ruby, which is also the dominant variety grown in the country. Approximately 55 percent of grapefruit exports are shipped through the Port of Durban, 18 percent through the Port of Cape Town, and 26 percent through the Ports of Gqeberha and Ngqura.

FAS Pretoria forecasts that grapefruit exports will increase by four percent in MY 2025/26 compared to MY 2024/25. This growth is attributed to an increase in export-quality fruit, sustained demand from traditional markets, and improved port performance. Additionally, South Africa is running a campaign in Europe to promote awareness of the Star Ruby variety, particularly targeting younger consumers.

FAS Pretoria has revised its MY 2024/25 grapefruit export estimate upward to 245,000 MT, reflecting increased production of export-quality fruit. This represents a 13 percent recovery from MY 2023/24, when fruit sizes were smaller. According to FAS Pretoria contacts, exports were dominated by Class 1 and Class 2 fruit, with volumes slightly higher than in MY 2023/24. Exports of processing-grade fruit accounted for seven percent of total grapefruit exports, an increase of seven percent compared to MY 2023/24.

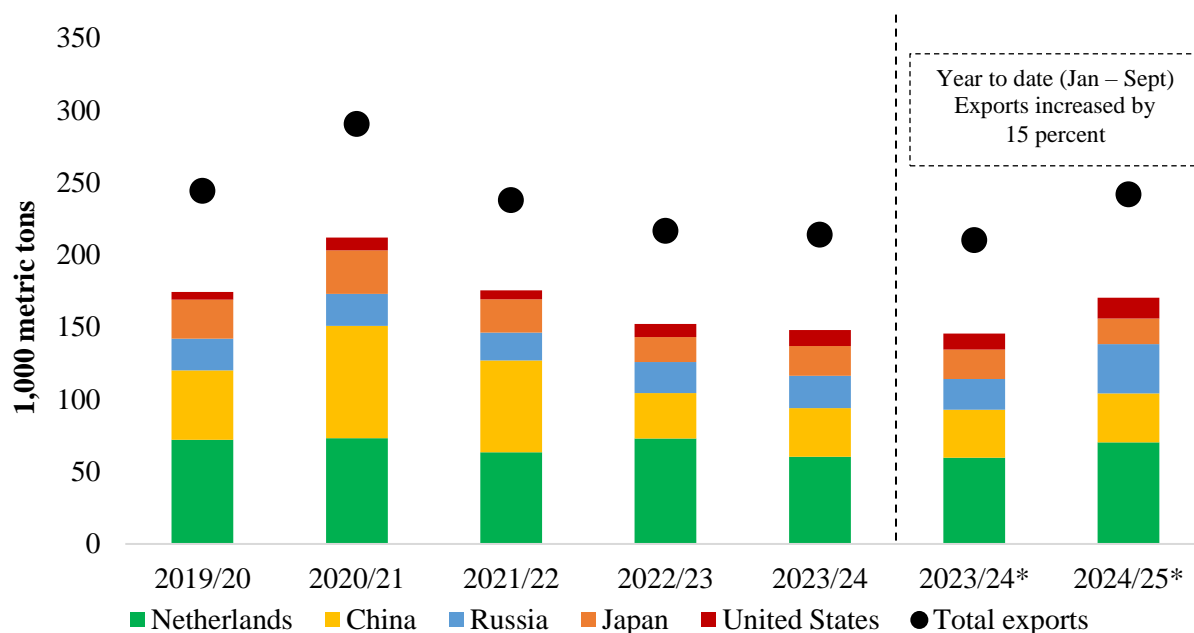
The grapefruit export season typically begins in week 10 (March), peaks in week 19 (May), and concludes around week 40 (October). FAS Pretoria maintains its MY 2023/24 export estimate at 214,059 MT on finalized data.

The European Union remains the largest market for South African grapefruit, accounting for 38 percent of exports in MY 2023/24. Year-to-date exports to the EU (January–September) in MY 2024/25 increased by 17 percent, driven by stronger demand. South Africa maintained its position as the leading supplier to the EU, followed by China.

Exports to China in MY 2024/25 through September showed a two percent increase, with most grapefruit destined for processing rather than fresh consumption. Approximately 82 percent of processing-grade grapefruit exports were shipped to China.

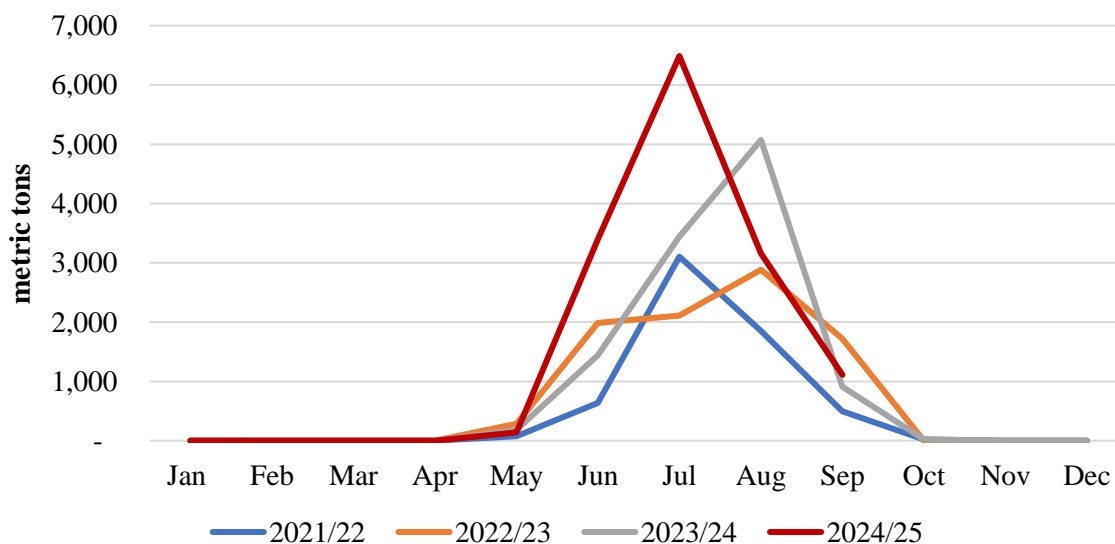
As shown in **Figure 13**, Russia is emerging as a notable market, with export volumes increasing by 61 percent year-on-year between January and September in MY 2024/25.

Figure 13: South African Fresh Grapefruit Exports



Source: FAS Pretoria using Trade Data Monitor, LLC. data

Figure 14: South Africa Grapefruit Exports to the United States



Source: FAS Pretoria using Trade Data Monitor, LLC. data

South Africa exported a record volume of grapefruit to the United States in MY 2024/25. In August 2025, the United States imposed a 30 percent tariff on several products from South Africa, including grapefruit. This prompted the industry to expedite shipments to the U.S. ahead

of the tariff implementation date, with shipments peaking in July rather than August (see **Figure 14**). As a result, exports between January and September 2025 increased by 29 percent to 14,296 MT compared to the same period in MY 2023/24. In MY 2025/26, export volumes to the United States are expected to decline slightly due to the new tariff. Star Ruby grapefruit produced in the Northern Cape province remains a popular export to the United States during the American summer months.

Imports

South Africa is not a major importer of grapefruit, as domestic supply consistently exceeds demand. Imports are primarily sourced from Eswatini to meet a small demand gap toward the end of the season. Notably, in MY2024/25, South Africa imported grapefruit from Botswana for the first time, reflecting the impact of new orchards coming into production there. As a result, MY 2024/25 imports are revised upward to 6,300 metric tons (MT).

Imports are forecast to increase to 8,000 MT in MY 2025/26, driven by expected growth in supply from both Eswatini and Botswana. FAS Pretoria slightly revises MY 2023/24 imports to 2,885 MT based on finalized data.

Prices

Table 5 illustrates the average local, export, and processed market prices for grapefruit since MY 2014/15. Grapefruit prices in the export market have increased steadily, reaching record levels in MY 2023/24 on the weakening of the South African currency (rand) and growing demand. Domestic prices for fresh grapefruit and processing tend to fluctuate based on supply.

Table 5: Grapefruit Prices in South Africa

MY	Average Price (rand/MT)		
	Local Market	Export Market	Processed
2014/15	3,866	5,737	310
2015/16	5,154	7,898	409
2016/17	2,472	7,762	596
2017/18	5,246	8,234	1,593
2018/19	2,908	7,990	1,523
2019/20	6,563	8,960	1,571
2020/21	6,147	8,185	1,345
2021/22	4,636	8,606	784
2022/23	6,918	8,183	1,708
2023/24	7,524	10,528	1,504

Source: CGA

Table 6: Grapefruit Production, Supply, and Distribution

Grapefruit, Fresh Market Year Begins South Africa	2023/2024		2024/2025		2025/2026	
	Jan 2024		Jan 2025		Jan 2026	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (HECTARES)	8000	8110	7900	8150	0	8150
Area Harvested (HECTARES)	7650	7580	7300	7660	0	7750
Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	8200	8250	8150	8300	0	8300
Non-Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	850	870	830	840	0	830
Total No. Of Trees (1000 TREES)	9050	9120	8980	9140	0	9130
Production (1000 MT)	420	420	425	425	0	430
Imports (1000 MT)	3	3	3	6	0	8
Total Supply (1000 MT)	423	423	428	431	0	438
Exports (1000 MT)	214	214	215	245	0	255
Fresh Dom. Consumption (1000 MT)	2	2	2	3	0	4
For Processing (1000 MT)	207	207	211	183	0	179
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	423	423	428	431	0	438
(HECTARES) ,(1000 TREES) ,(1000 MT)						
OFFICIAL DATA CAN BE ACCESSED AT: PSD Online Advanced Query						

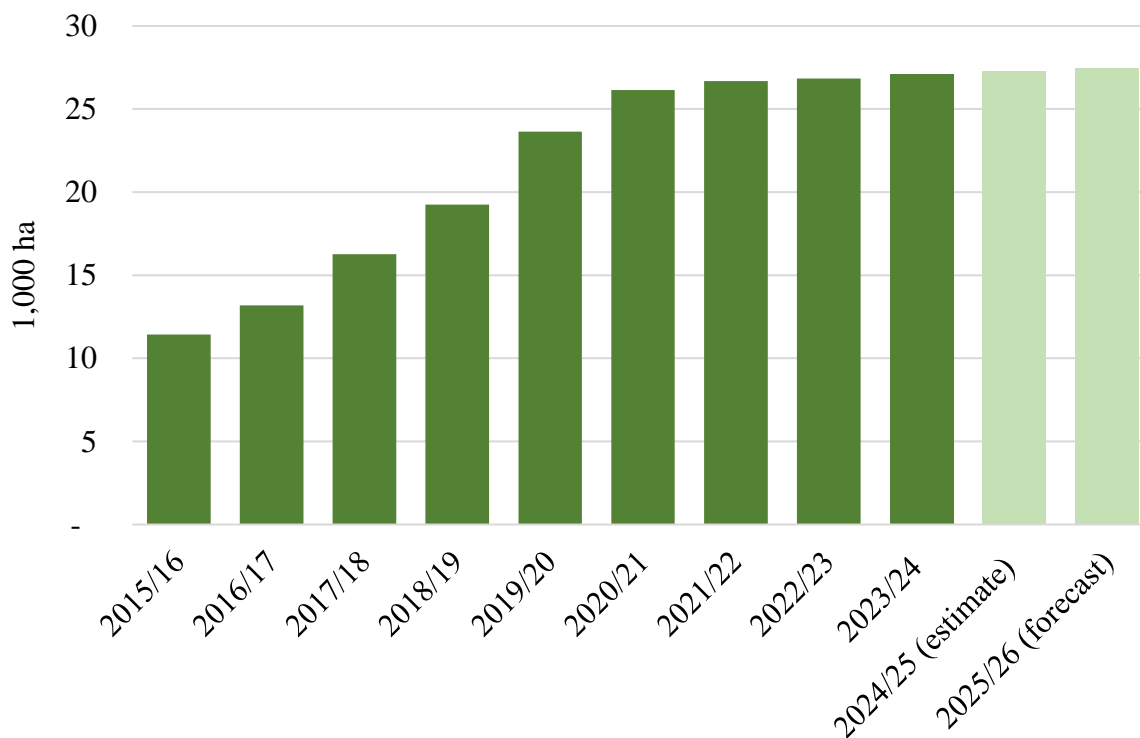
Tangerines/Mandarins, Fresh

Crop Area

FAS Pretoria expects that the area planted to tangerines/mandarins (also known as “soft citrus”) will increase by one percent to 27,500 ha in MY 2025/26. The slight increase reflects a move from other citrus types such as grapefruit to soft citrus due to relatively higher demand in the export market.

South Africa’s expansion of tangerines/mandarins area has slowed, and FAS Pretoria estimates area under tangerines/mandarins increased by one percent in MY 2024/25. Driven by higher global demand for seedless soft citrus and relatively high profit margins compared to other citrus types, farmers planted much new area in the latter half of the 2010s (see **Figure 15**). Since then, growers have expanded the number of hectares under netting to enable better water-management practices, to better control pests, and to protect the fruit from strong winds, hail, or sun damage. In MY 2023/24, the area planted to tangerines/mandarins increased by one percent again, as the rate of budwood sales declines. A slight area expansion was observed in the Limpopo, Eastern Cape, and KwaZulu-Natal growing regions.

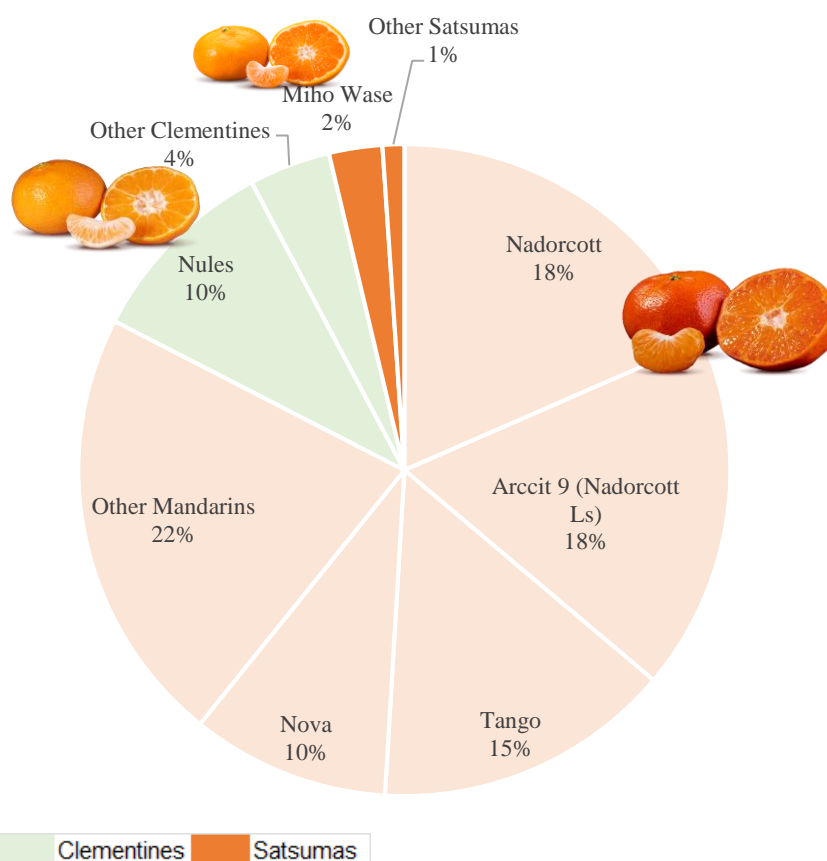
Figure 15: South African Tangerine/Mandarin Area



Source: FAS Pretoria using CGA data

The Western Cape province is the predominant producer of soft citrus, accounting for 38 percent of South Africa’s total area planted, followed by Limpopo (28 percent) and Eastern Cape (25 percent) provinces.

Figure 16: Tangerine/Mandarin Varieties Produced in South Africa



Source: *FAS Pretoria using CGA data*

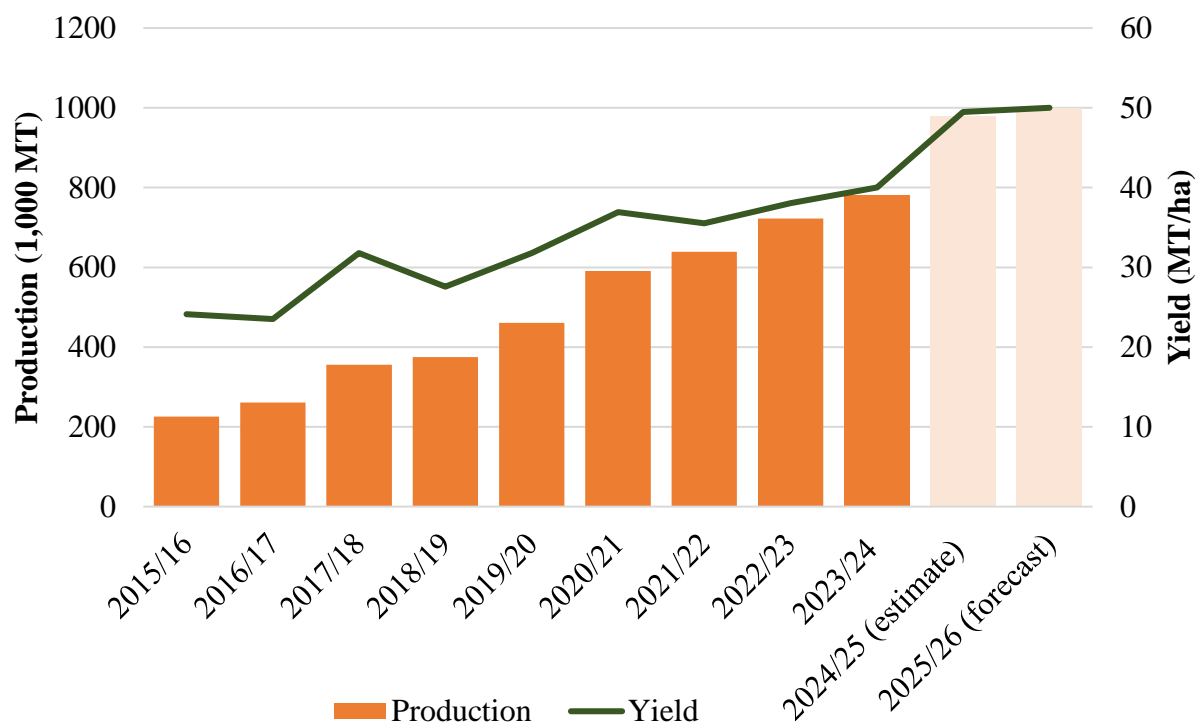
The predominant cultivar planted is the Nadorcott, accounting for almost 18 percent of total area. Nadorcott is followed by Arccit 9 (17 percent), Tango (15 percent), Nules, (10 percent), Nova (10 percent), Orri (7 percent), Leanri (6 percent), and Royal Honey Murcott (5 percent).

Production

FAS Pretoria forecasts that production in MY 2025/26 will increase by two percent, driven by new trees coming into production, normal weather conditions, and productivity gains from the use of hail nets.

FAS Pretoria has revised its estimate for MY 2024/25 production upward to 980,000 MT, representing a 26 percent increase over MY 2023/24. This growth is primarily attributed to young trees entering production, especially the Nadorcott and Tango varieties, which account for nearly 40 percent of total mandarin hectares aged 1-10 years. Additional contributions come from young Orri orchards in the Western Cape and Royal Honey Murcott orchards in the Northern region. The majority of growing areas reported favorable fruit sizes, marking an improvement over the smaller fruit sizes seen in MY 2023/24. FAS revises MY 2023/24 production upwards by 10,000 MT on finalized data.

Figure 17: Tangerine/Mandarin Production



Source: FAS Pretoria using DOA data

Consumption

The South African industry prioritizes export markets for soft citrus and usually only supplies surplus fruit to the local market. The increased use of netting has yielded higher-quality produce, leading to larger exports and lower domestic supply for consumers. Domestic consumption figures include both human consumption and animal feed.

FAS Pretoria forecasts that domestic consumption of tangerines/mandarins will grow by two percent in MY 2025/26 from MY 2024/25, based on increased production and greater preference for soft citrus. FAS Pretoria maintains MY 2024/25 and MY 2023/24 consumption figures.

Processing

FAS Pretoria forecasts that tangerines and mandarins sold for processing in MY 2025/26 will decrease to 80,000 MT due to increased production of export-quality fruit. Processing volumes for MY 2024/25 and MY 2023/24 have been revised upward to 83,000 MT and 91,000 MT, respectively, reflecting higher overall production. Prices for tangerines and mandarins sold for processing peaked in MY 2023/24. In MY 2024/25, FAS Pretoria contacts report that processing prices have eased, although they remain above pre-MY 2023/24 levels.

South Africa prioritizes supplying export markets, and fruit that does not meet export standards is typically diverted for processing. Most South African tangerines and mandarins processed are used to produce juice and concentrate.

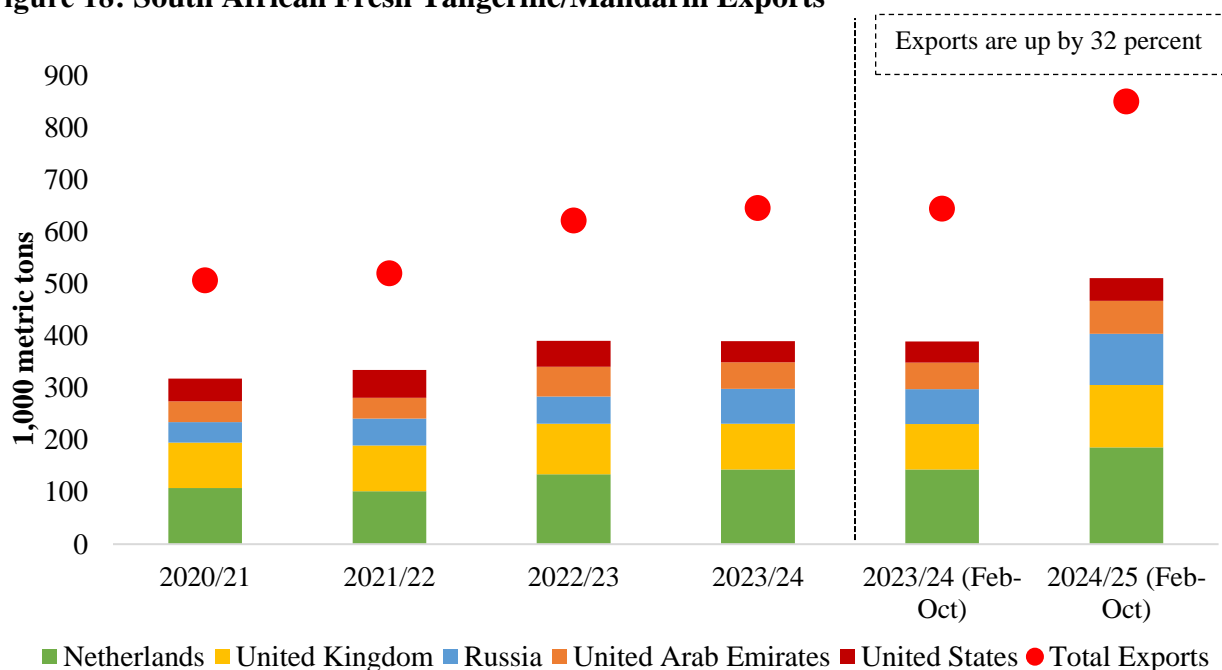
Exports

The tangerine/mandarin export season typically starts around week 11 (March) and continues through to week 44 (November). Exports typically have two peaks at around weeks 19-23 (May-June) and 27-34 (July-August). Most mandarins are exported through the Port of Cape Town (48 percent) and the Durban Port (34 percent), near production areas. The Nadorcott and Tango mandarins are the most exported varieties, followed by Clementine and Nova varieties. The Satsumas and Clementines are early export varieties while Nadorcott and Tango dominate the mid-to-late export season.

FAS Pretoria forecasts that MY 2025/26 exports will increase by three percent from MY 2024/25 based on increased production of export-quality fruit due to investments in quality improvements. Growth will also be driven by growing global demand, especially in leading markets such as the EU, UK, UAE, Russia, and the United States.

FAS Pretoria revises MY 2024/25 exports to 853,000 MT, representing a 32 percent increase year on year. This record export growth is supported by increased production of export quality fruit. Exports of Tangerines/Mandarins were dominated by the Nadorcott variety due to its growth in production. FAS Pretoria report increases in exports of Clementines, Novas, Leanri, and Orri varieties while the Satsuma variety declines. FAS Pretoria revises MY 2023/24 exports to 645,874 MT based on finalized trade data. (see **Figure 18**).

Figure 18: South African Fresh Tangerine/Mandarin Exports



Source: FAS Pretoria using Trade Data Monitor, LLC. data

The EU and the United Kingdom are the largest foreign markets for South African soft citrus, accounting for 44 percent of total exports, followed by the Russia (10 percent), United Arab Emirates (8 percent), Russia (8 percent), and the United States (6 percent), (see **Figure 18**).

In August 2025, the United States imposed a 30 percent tariff on several products from South Africa, including fresh tangerines and mandarins. This tariff did not have a significant impact on exports during MY 2024/25, as the industry expedited shipments to the United States ahead of the tariff's implementation. South African soft citrus shipments to the United States typically begin with clementines arriving around April or May and conclude with late mandarin varieties in July. Exports between February and October 2025 (MY 2024/25) increased by six percent to 43,893 MT compared to the same period in MY 2023/24 (see **Figure 18**). With no exemption, export volumes to the United States are expected to decline slightly in MY 2025/26 as a result of the new tariff. Clementines produced in the Western Cape province remain a popular export to the United States during the American summer months.

Imports

South Africa's imports are minimal and are forecast to remain below 5,000 MT in MY 2025/26 on improved availability of locally produced tangerines/mandarins. South Africa imports small volumes of citrus to satisfy off-season demand. FAS Pretoria revises MY 2023/24 slightly upwards to 3,978 MT based on finalized data. South Africa imported tangerines/mandarins from Botswana for the first time in MY 2024/25, reflecting young orchards coming into production there.

Prices

Table 7 indicates the local, export, and processed market prices for tangerines/mandarins since MY 2014/15. Export market prices for tangerines/mandarins remain the highest of all citrus categories for South Africa, supporting the surge in production. Because domestic demand is also high but growers prefer export markets whenever possible, average prices in MY 2023/24 for fresh and processed fruit also increased to R9,241/MT and R1,636/MT, respectively, while export prices contracted slightly.

Table 7: Tangerine/Mandarin Prices

MY	Average Price (rand/MT)		
	Local Market	Export Market	Processed
2014/15	5,606	11,392	391
2015/16	6,785	14,242	532
2016/17	6,037	13,489	614
2017/18	6,617	13,498	709
2018/19	5,586	13,344	502
2019/20	6,866	16,387	280
2020/21	6,552	14,565	366
2021/22	5,938	14,360	320
2022/23	7,383	17,587	390
2023/24	9,241	16,503	1,636

Source: CGA

Table 8: Tangerine/Mandarin Production, Supply, and Distribution

Tangerines/Mandarins, Fresh Market Year Begins South Africa	2023/2024		2024/2025		2025/2026	
	Feb-23		Feb-24		Feb-25	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (HECTARES)	27000	27089	27300	27300	0	27500
Area Harvested (HECTARES)	19500	19450	19800	21500	0	22000
Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	10470	10500	10550	10650	0	10750
Non-Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	3870	3870	3910	3910	0	3850
Total No. Of Trees (1000 TREES)	14340	14370	14460	14560	0	14600
Production (1000 MT)	770	780	790	980	0	1000
Imports (1000 MT)	3	4	3	4	0	4
Total Supply (1000 MT)	773	784	793	984	0	1004
Exports (1000 MT)	655	646	674	853	0	875
Fresh Dom. Consumption (1000 MT)	47	47	48	48	0	49
For Processing (1000 MT)	71	91	71	83	0	80
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	773	784	793	984	0	1004
(HECTARES) ,(1000 TREES) ,(1000 MT)						
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Lemons/Limes, Fresh

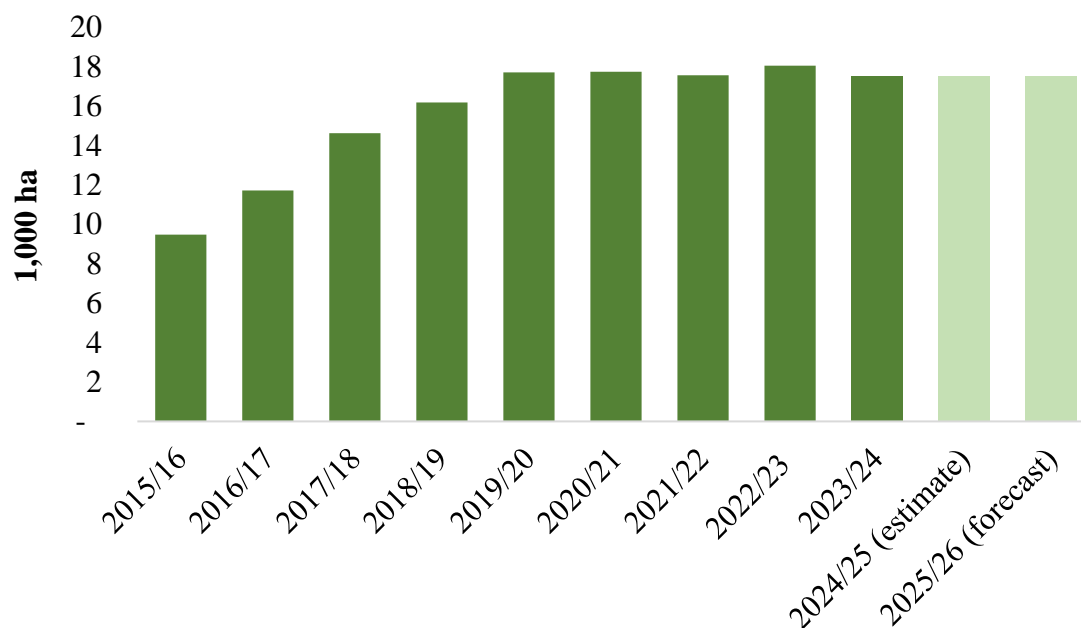
Crop Area

FAS Pretoria forecasts that South Africa's lemon area will remain unchanged at 17,500 hectares in MY 2025/26, as producers are holding back on further plantings due to oversupply and limited demand for processing. The area planted to lemons in South Africa more than doubled between 2015 and 2020, driven by strong global demand and rising prices. However, expansion has stalled since 2020 due to weaker export prices (see **Figure 19**).

FAS Pretoria revises the area planted in MY 2023/24 to 17,536 hectares, based on updated industry survey data. This represents a three percent year-on-year decrease, as growers uproot older trees and delay new plantings.

The contraction in MY 2023/24 was primarily in Limpopo (-344 ha), KwaZulu-Natal (-129 ha), and Western Cape (-91 ha) provinces. This reduction reflects a shift by growers toward other crops and citrus varieties.

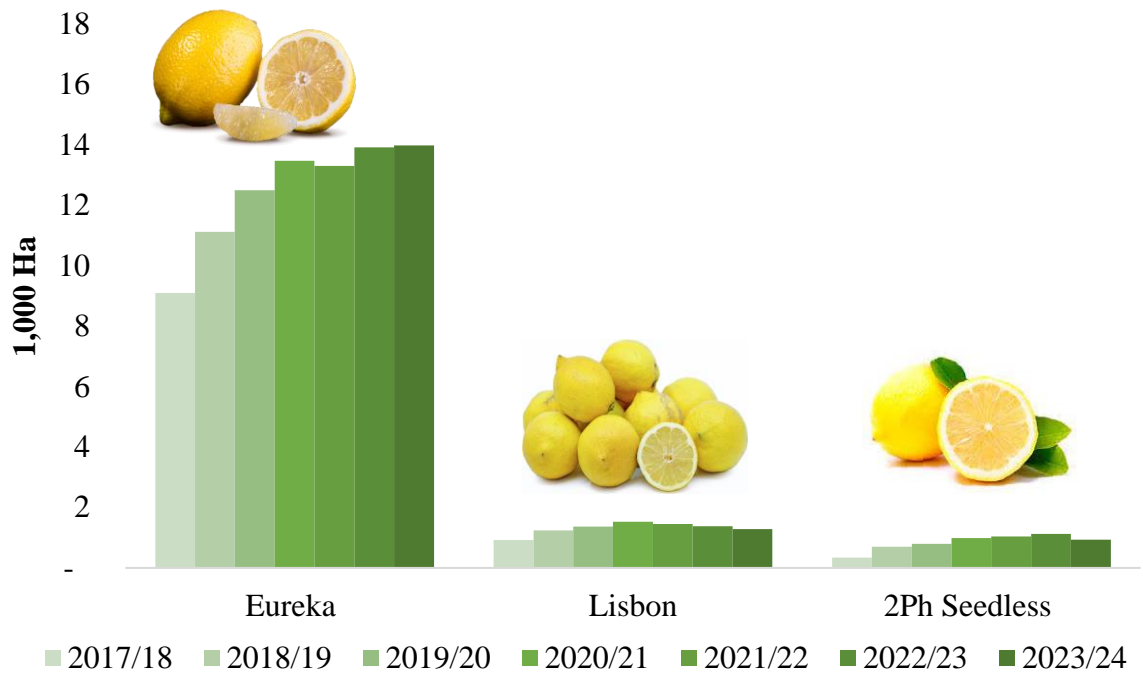
Figure 19: South African Lemon Area



Source: *FAS Pretoria using CGA data*

The largest growing region for lemons in South Africa is the Eastern Cape province, accounting for 43 percent of total area planted, followed by Limpopo (34 percent) and Western Cape (14 percent) provinces. By far, the most popular cultivar of lemons planted in South Africa is Eureka, representing 75 percent of total area. Eureka is followed by the Lisbon (seven percent) and 2Ph Seedless (six percent) cultivars.

Figure 20: Lemon Varieties Produced in South Africa



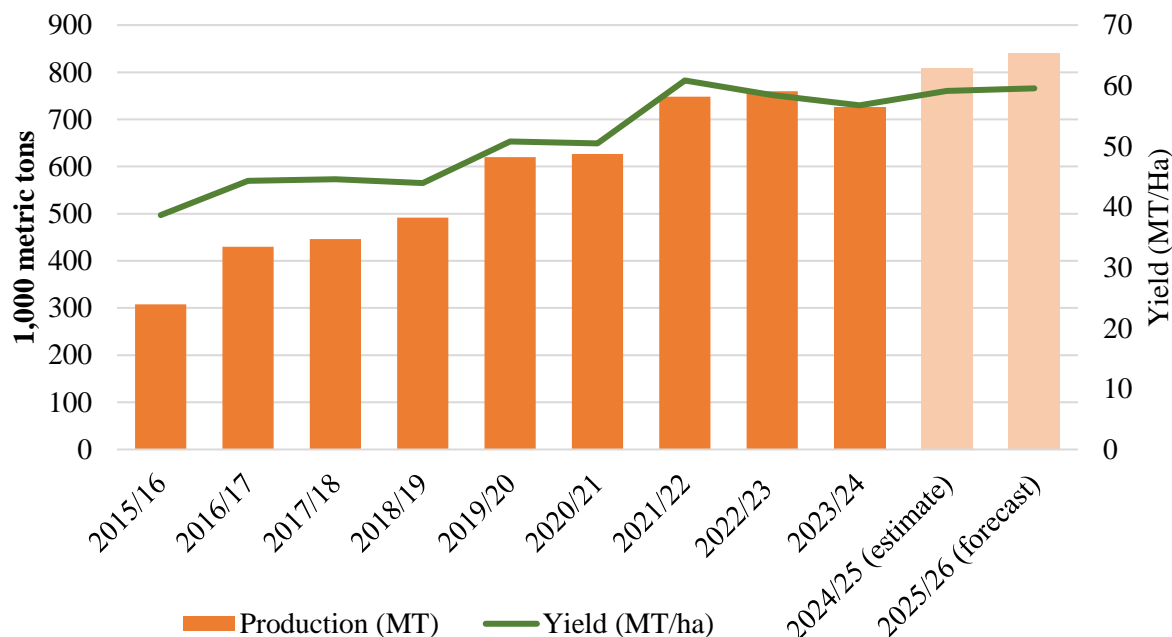
Source: FAS Pretoria using CGA data

Production

FAS Pretoria forecasts that lemon production in MY 2025/26 will increase by four percent year-on-year, driven by young trees reaching full production, normal weather conditions, and adequate water availability for irrigation across all major production regions. Dam reservoir levels in key growing areas are reported to be sufficient for irrigation needs.

MY 2024/25 production is revised upward to 810,000 metric tons, an eleven percent increase from MY 2023/24. This growth is attributed to new trees coming into production and improved fruit size compared to the previous season. Approximately four production regions, accounting for 70 percent of the total area planted, experienced a delayed start of nearly two weeks due to severe rain, hail, and frost. Despite this, overall production was bolstered by increased yields in the second and third crop sets. FAS Pretoria maintains MY 2023/24 production at 730,000 MT.

Figure 21: South African Lemon Production



Source: FAS Pretoria using DOA data

Consumption

FAS Pretoria forecasts domestic lemon consumption in MY 2025/26 at 30,000 metric tons, unchanged from MY 2024/25, reflecting stable local demand and the diversion of excess supply to the export market. FAS Pretoria revises MY 2024/25 domestic consumption to 30,000 metric tons, down from 44,000 metric tons in MY 2023/24, due to increased production of export-quality fruit.

In South Africa, lemons and limes are considered luxury food items and are primarily used as garnishes in beverages at restaurants. Limes are rarely used in dishes, as most consumers are unfamiliar with their taste, and they are not consistently available in grocery stores. Producers report that lime demand rises in summer for cocktail garnishes but remains negligible during the rest of the year.

Processing

Lemon prices for processing in South Africa have declined and are considered unprofitable, primarily due to reduced exports of lemon juice (see **Table 9** on page 34 for prices). Processors report high stocks of lemon juice and have minimized purchases as a result. FAS Pretoria forecasts that lemon intake for processing in MY 2025/26 will decrease by eight percent to 123,000 metric tons, down from MY 2024/25, due to increased exportable supply and reduced demand for lemon juice. FAS Pretoria revises the estimate for lemons processed in MY 2024/25 downward to 130,000 metric tons, an 18 percent decrease from MY 2023/24, reflecting record

low processing prices, limited alternative markets, and a higher proportion of export-quality fruit.

Processed lemons and limes are used as flavorings in confectionery and dairy products. In the beverage industry, lemons are used to produce lemon juice, lemonade, smoothies, and liquors. In the cleaning industry, lemon juice serves as a degreaser and disinfectant due to its high citric acid content, which can inhibit the growth of certain molds and bacteria.

Exports

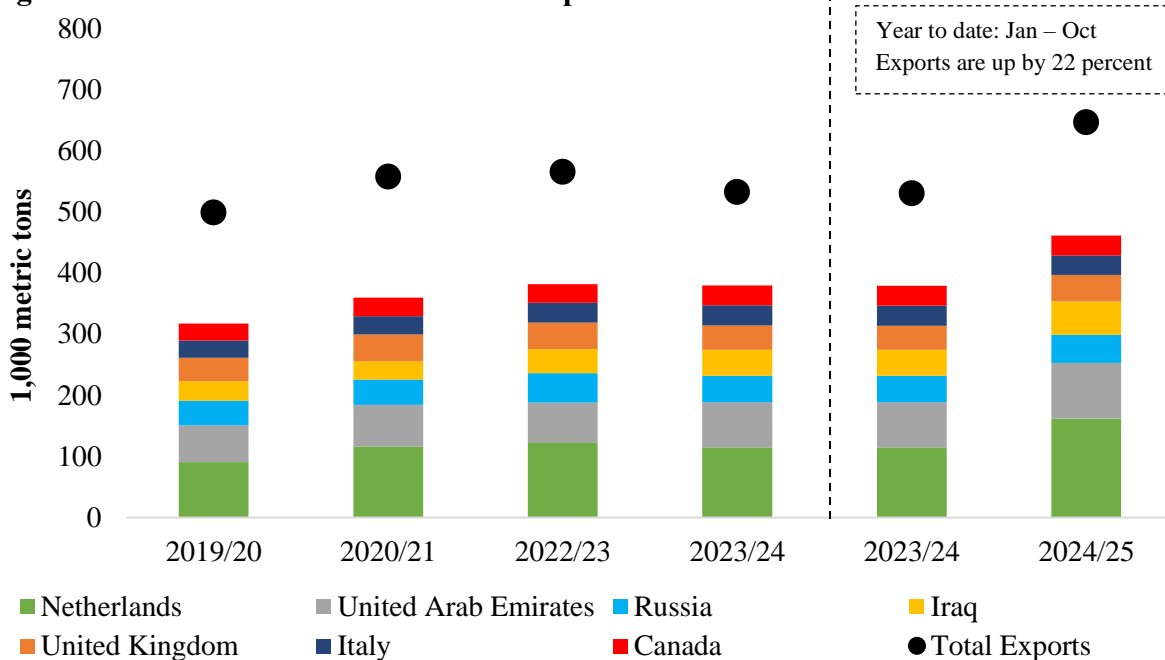
The lemon export season typically starts around week 3 (January) until week 41 (October), with a bulk of lemons exported between weeks 17 and 29 (April-July). About 48 percent of lemons are exported from Port Elizabeth and Coega in the Eastern Cape, 36 percent from Durban Port, and 17 percent from the Port of Cape Town.

FAS Pretoria forecasts that MY 2025/26 lemon exports will increase by six percent from MY 2024/25 due to increased supply of export quality fruit, improved port performance, and sustained demand, particularly in major markets. Lemon exports are expected to benefit from an industry real-time data model used to coordinate and inform weekly export distribution, particularly to the EU market. This will aid growers to optimize periods when supply from Spain is low and avoid oversupplying the market. South Africa exported lemons to India for the first time in MY 2024/25. Demand from this market is expected to grow in MY 2025/26 even though South Africa faces a 30 percent tariff.

FAS Pretoria revises MY 2024/25 lemon exports upward to 650,000 metric tons, reflecting increased production. This record export volume represents a 22 percent year-on-year increase, supported by improved yields of export-grade fruit and larger fruit size. FAS Pretoria contacts report that 12 percent of exported lemons were processing grade. FAS Pretoria maintains MY 2023/24 lemon exports.

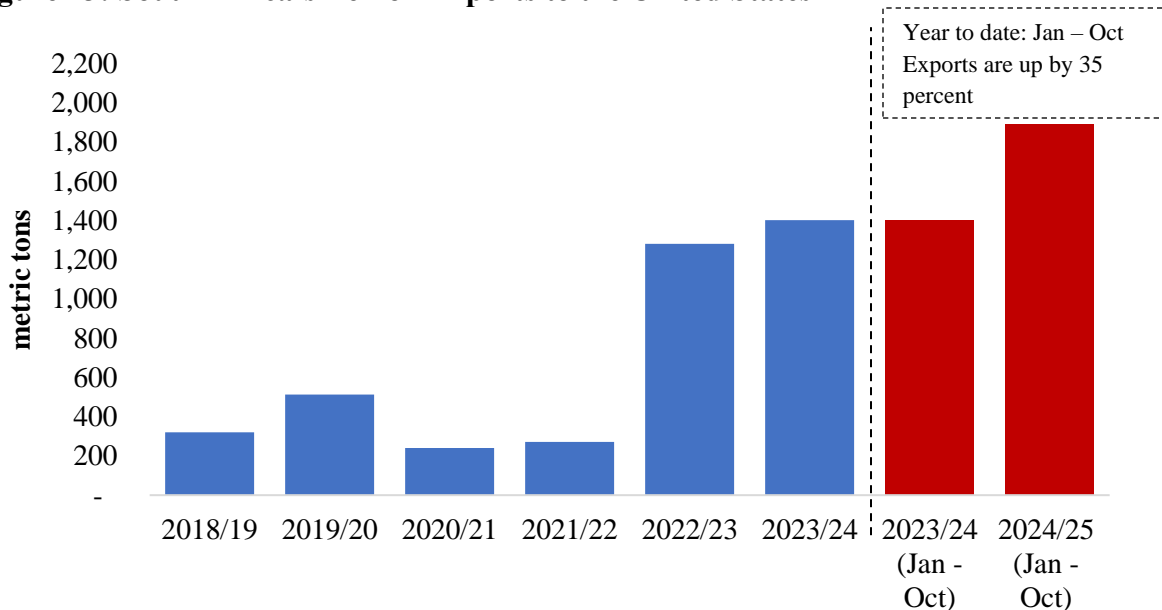
The EU remains the largest market for South African lemons in MY 2023/24, accounting for nearly 40 percent of total exports (see **Figure 22**). The United Arab Emirates received 14 percent (73,777 MT) of exports, while Russia accounted for 8 percent (43,223 MT) last season.

Figure 22: South African Fresh Lemon Exports



Source: *FAS Pretoria using Trade Data Monitor LLC. data*

Figure 23: South Africa's Lemon Exports to the United States



Source: *FAS Pretoria using Trade Data Monitor LLC. data*

South Africa has historically exported relatively low volumes of lemons to the United States. In MY 2022/23, exports exceeded 1,000 metric tons and reached record levels in MY 2024/25. However, these volumes remain relatively low compared to other markets.

Imports

Domestic production meets local demand for most of the year, so South African lemon imports typically remain below 3,000 metric tons. FAS Pretoria forecasts that lemon imports in MY 2025/26 will remain steady at 3,000 metric tons, supported by sufficient local production. Imports for MY 2024/25 are estimated at 2,700 metric tons, unchanged from 2,728 metric tons in MY 2023/24.

Prices

Table 9 presents the average local, export, and processed market prices for lemons since MY 2014/15. Export markets consistently offer higher prices for South African lemons compared to domestic fresh and processed markets. Processing prices remain low, while the domestic market price in MY 2023/24 increased by 24 percent compared to MY 2022/23.

Table 9: Lemon/Lime Prices

MY	Average Price (rand/MT)		
	Local Market	Export Market	Processed
2014/15	7,453	12,340	1,378
2015/16	7,697	16,483	1,842
2016/17	7,445	13,289	1,657
2017/18	6,697	11,151	1,463
2018/19	6,494	11,710	2,301
2019/20	5,804	13,570	770
2020/21	5,695	10,359	568
2021/22	5,061	10,508	307
2022/23	5,573	12,104	145
2023/24	6,911	11,429	163

Source: *CGA*

Table 10: Lemon/Lime Production, Supply, and Distribution

Lemons/Limes, Fresh	2023/2024		2024/2025		2025/2026		
Market Begin Year	Jan 2024		Jan 2025		Jan 2026		
South Africa	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	
Area Planted	18,050	17,536	18,000	17,500	-	17,500	(HECTARES)
Area Harvested	12,800	12,800	13,200	13,700	-	14,100	(HECTARES)
Bearing Trees	7,915	7,915	7,940	7,940	-	8,110	(1000 TREES)
Non-Bearing Trees	2,500	2,500	2,490	2,490	-	2,480	(1000 TREES)
Total No. Of Trees	10,415	10,415	10,430	10,430	-	10,590	(1000 TREES)
Production	730	730	780	810	-	840	(1000 MT)
Imports	3	3	2	3	-	3	(1000 MT)
Total Supply	733	733	782	813	-	843	(1000 MT)
Exports	530	530	590	650	-	690	(1000 MT)
Fresh Dom. Consumption	44	44	39	30	-	30	(1000 MT)
For Processing	159	159	153	133	-	123	(1000 MT)
Total Distribution	733	733	782	813	-	843	(1000 MT)
TS=TD							
Post Notes							

Orange Juice

Production

South African growers have traditionally produced oranges for the fresh export market. However, some growers, particularly those in regions prone to hailstorms and other weather-related quality issues, focus on supplying processing facilities.

Since MY 2023/24, domestic juicers have reportedly offered such high prices for juice oranges that some producers are considering diverting export-quality fruit to processing. This surge in orange juice prices is largely attributed to declining orange production in Brazil, driven by adverse weather and citrus greening disease. However, FAS Pretoria contacts report that by early 2025, international juice prices had dropped by up to 43 percent from their peak, due to reduced demand.

FAS Pretoria forecasts that orange juice production in MY 2025/26 will decline by nine percent, reflecting a decrease in orange deliveries for processing as growers are again expected to allocate more fruit to the export market. The forecast for MY 2024/25 orange juice production has been revised downward to 40,200 MT, a 23 percent decrease from MY 2023/24. Although juicing remains a viable alternative with reduced risks, FAS Pretoria contacts note that prices have fallen from the highs seen in MY 2023/24. Orange juice production in MY 2023/24 is now estimated at 52,400 MT, revised downward due to fruit losses in major production regions, but still 42 percent higher than in MY 2022/23.

The industry keeps carry-over stocks from the previous season to ensure year-round availability. Concentrated orange juice accounts for at least 90 percent of total orange juice produced in South Africa.

Industry statistics for orange juice are largely unavailable in South Africa. The production, consumption, and stock levels represent FAS Pretoria estimates and forecasts based on information derived from various sources, contacts, and calculations of extractions from data regarding fresh oranges delivered for processing.

Consumption

Domestic consumption of orange juice in MY 2025/26 is forecast to decline by one percent, reflecting elevated prices and increased availability of alternative beverages. Consumption is also estimated to have decreased by one percent in MY 2024/25 for the same reasons, as a variety of other juices are now included in local juice blends. FAS Pretoria maintains its estimate for domestic consumption in MY 2023/24.

While juices in higher-end domestic retail are pure orange, juice consumed on the local market is typically made from a juice blend of both apple and orange juices and often contains varying amounts of grape, mango, and/or pear juice based on market conditions. Processors primarily source apple and pear concentrate from China, which is used as a base for blended juice.

Exports

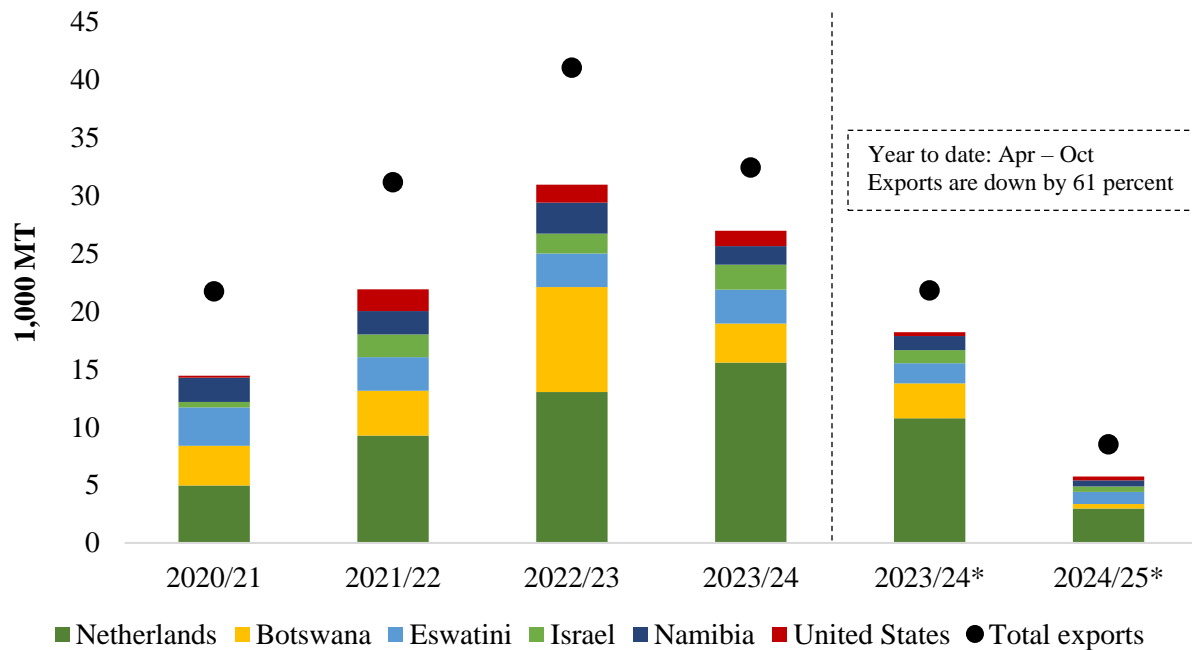
FAS Pretoria forecasts that orange juice exports will increase to 35000 MT in MY 2025/26, based on production levels and available stocks. The estimate for MY 2024/25 exports has been revised downward to 22,400 MT, reflecting a slower pace of exports between April and October compared to the same period in MY 2023/24, as well as limited export demand due to elevated prices.

FAS Pretoria adjusted all orange juice export data to the equivalent of 65 Degrees Brix based on the respective conversion factors shown on the export tables below. Orange juice exports under HS200919 were converted using a factor of 1.02, while orange juice exports under HS200912 were converted using a factor of 0.18. Orange juice exports under HS200911 were not converted as it is already equivalent to 65 Degrees Brix. Degrees Brix represents the strength of the juice based on the sugar content. Thus, 65 Degrees Brix means that the orange juice has at least 65 grams of sucrose per 100 grams of juice.

South Africa exports orange juice mainly to countries in Southern Africa, including Eswatini, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, and Zimbabwe. Europe is also an important market for South African orange juice. The United States is the sixth largest market for South African orange juice exports, accounting for a four percent export share in MY 2023/24. Although exports in MY 2024/25 between April and September show a 4 percent decrease, FAS Pretoria expects that exports will recover to just above 1,000 MT by the end of the marketing year.

In August 2025, the United States imposed a 30 percent tariff on South African products, including orange juice. However, in November 2025, the United States granted an exemption for orange juice, removing it from the scope of the August import tariff.

Figure 24: South African Orange Juice Exports (HS200919, HS200911 and HS200912)



*Year to date: April – October

Source: FAS Pretoria using Trade Data Monitor, LLM. data

Imports

FAS Pretoria forecasts that juice imports will decrease to 1,000 MT, reflecting sufficient domestic production. Imports for MY 2024/25 are estimated at 1,500 MT, down from 2,731 MT in MY 2023/24. This decline is attributed to limited demand resulting from increased prices. Year-to-date data indicate that Zimbabwe is a leading supplier of orange juice, primarily due to the popularity of a Zimbabwean juice brand among Zimbabwean nationals residing in South Africa.

Table 11: Orange Juice Production, Supply, and Distribution

Orange Juice Market Year Begins South Africa	2023/2024		2024/2025		2025/2026	
	Apr-25		Apr-25		Apr-26	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Deliv. To Processors (MT)	547000	524000	571000	402000	0	367000
Beginning Stocks (MT)	6989	6989	20113	26383	0	42563
Production (MT)	54700	52400	57100	40200	0	36700
Imports (MT)	2574	2574	1500	1500	0	1000
Total Supply (MT)	64263	61963	78713	68083	0	80263
Exports (MT)	41000	32430	41500	22400	0	35000
Domestic Consumption (MT)	3150	3150	3120	3120	0	3100
Ending Stocks (MT)	20113	26383	34093	42563	0	42163
Total Distribution (MT)	64263	61963	78713	68083	0	80263
(MT)						
OFFICIAL DATA CAN BE ACCESSED AT: PSD Online Advanced Query						

Policies and Regulations

Export Policies and Regulations

United States

Import tariff: In November 2025, the United States granted an exemption on oranges and orange juice from the import tariff imposed in August 2025. For oranges, the timing of the exemption means the full benefits will likely be realized during the 2026 export season, as the citrus export season to the United States typically concludes in October. The industry expedited shipments ahead of the August 2025 implementation tariff, but concerns remain regarding the exclusion of mandarin exports from the exemption. Mandarins are South Africa's second most exported citrus type to the United States, and their exclusion could limit the exemption's overall impact on the citrus sector.

Exports of Cold-Treated Citrus from South Africa to All U.S. Ports of Entry: On November 4, 2020, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced that it had authorized the import of cold-treated fresh citrus fruit from South Africa into all U.S. ports of entry. APHIS determined that South African citrus from approved areas that is cold treated in transit can safely enter all American ports of entry without increasing the risk of introducing false codling moth (FCM) or other pests of concern. Previously, APHIS restricted the entry of cold-treated citrus fruit from South Africa to four U.S. ports that have cold treatment facilities, namely, Newark, Philadelphia, Houston, and New Orleans. This action broadened the reach of South African citrus to other regions within the United States, provided flexibility to retailers and wholesalers, and lowered transportation costs of imported citrus.

U.S. Cold Sterilization Protocol: South Africa exports citrus to the United States under a cold treatment schedule to address False Codling Moth. APHIS has reduced the cold treatment schedule from 24 to 22 days, which has been beneficial to South Africa by reducing shipping costs and fruit loss from cold damage.

South African Citrus Exports from Citrus Black Spot (CBS) Areas to the United States: Currently, South Africa can only export citrus to the United States from officially recognized CBS-free areas. The CBS-free areas are found in the Western Cape and Northern Cape provinces, as well as relevant districts of the Free State and North West provinces. In 2014, APHIS issued a notice proposing to amend fruit and vegetable regulations to allow the import of several varieties of fresh citrus fruit, as well as citrus hybrids, into the United States from areas in South Africa where CBS has been known to occur. The regulation would authorize imports on the condition of satisfying certain systems and SPS treatment procedures. The comment period closed, and the regulation remains under departmental review.

European Union

The EU requires that imports of citrus first undergo specified cold treatment processes and precooling for specific periods before importation to ensure protection against FCM.

EU Requirements Related to CBS: South Africa faces challenges in the EU market because of CBS requirements, and often voluntarily suspends citrus exports to the EU to avoid any further interceptions of fruit with CBS. For example, in September 2025 South Africa voluntarily suspended citrus exports to the EU as a precaution and risk mitigation measure to prevent a ban on all citrus exports to the market.

Citrus Case at the World Trade Organization: On April 15, 2024, the South African government requested a consultation with the EU at the World Trade Organization (WTO) over trade phytosanitary regulations regarding Citrus Black Spot, citing that these measures were not based on scientific principles and appear to be trade restrictive. South Africa and the EU failed to settle the dispute within the set 60 days. South Africa then requested an establishment of a panel at the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) of the WTO to review import measures imposed by the EU on citrus imports (on June 24, 2024). The panel will hear the case and rule on the trade dispute between South Africa and the EU.

Vietnam

South Africa Gains Market Access for Oranges in Vietnam: In March 2024, the South Africa government announced a bilateral protocol granting South African orange access to the Vietnamese market. The new protocol came a decade after the Vietnamese government changed import regulations which necessitated a new protocol. The final adjustment was the removal of two pests from the official pest list and a new cold treatment protocol was set out in the phytosanitary import requirements by the Plant Protection Department of the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The Southern African Citrus Growers Association estimates that this market offers an export potential of approximately 15,000 tons of oranges.

Import Policies and Regulations

The following links provide useful resources and regulations pertaining to importing fruit into South Africa.

- Procedures for importing to South Africa: [Import Procedure](#)
- Maximum Residue Limits: [South African Citrus MRLs](#)
- South African Special Export Protocols/Programs/Directives: [Special-export-protocols](#)

Citrus exports to South Africa from Most Favored Nations face a 4 percent customs duty. **Table 12** reflects the applicable custom duties when exporting citrus and orange juice to South Africa.

Table 12: Custom Duties Applicable to Citrus Exports to South Africa

HS Code	Article description	Unit	Rate of Duty					
			General	EU	EFTA	SADC	MERCOSUR	AFCFTA
08.05	Citrus fruit, fresh or dried:							
0805.10	Oranges							
0805.10.10	Fresh	kg	4%	free	4%	free	4%	2%
0805.10.90	Other	kg	4%	free	4%	free	4%	2%
0805.40	Grapefruit, including pomelos:							
0805.40.10	Fresh	kg	4%	free	4%	free	4%	2%
0805.40.90	Other	kg	4%	free	4%	free	4%	2%
0805.50	Lemons (Citrus Limon, Citrus Limonium) and limes (Citrus aurantifolia, Citrus latifolia):							
0805.50.10	Fresh	kg	4%	free	4%	free	4%	2%
0805.50.90	Other	kg	4%	free	4%	free	4%	2%
0805.90	Other:							
0805.90.10	Fresh	kg	4%	free	4%	free	4%	2%
0805.90.90	Other	kg	4%	free	4%	free	4%	2%
2009.1	Orange juice							
2009.11	Frozen	kg	25%	free	25%	free	25%	25%
2009.12	Not frozen, of Brix value not exceeding 20	kg	25%	free	25%	free	25%	25%
2009.19	Other	kg	25%	free	25%	free	25%	25%

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS) *updated December 11, 2025*

South Africa Fresh Produce Importers Association: The Fresh Produce Importers Association (FPIA) assists members with the importation of fresh fruit and vegetables in South Africa. Information on their members, contact details, and services can be found on the [FPIA website](#).

Sources:

Citrus Growers' Association (CGA) - <http://www.cga.co.za/>

Department of Agriculture (DOA) - <https://www.nda.gov.za/>

South African Revenue Service (SARS) - <https://www.sars.gov.za/>

Attachments:

No Attachments