

Chile expects to export 3% less citrus in the 2019 season

Asoex's Citrus Committee expects to export 3% less citrus in the 2019 season. According to the Committee's estimates, the clementines will have the highest drop, with a variation of -8%, over the previous season, followed by oranges with -3%. Meanwhile, exports of lemons and mandarins won't show a significant variation. However, the Committee expects a very good production in terms of size and quality, thanks to the climate there's been in the orchards: warm temperatures during the day and colder temperatures during the night.

By species

Clementines will have the highest drop in the 2019 season, which would reach -8%. The country will export 58,000 tons, while last season it exported 63,198 tons. According to Juan Enrique Ortuzar, the president of the Citrus Committee, this decrease will happen because "after a year of high production, blooms are sometimes less intense." As a result, he said, "In clementines we think that we are going to have 5% to 10% less than last year. We will export 56 thousand to 58 thousand tons."

The country is expected to export 97,000 tons of oranges, which translates into a 3% decrease when compared to the 99,556 tons exported in 2018. "In general, the challenge is to open new markets and, this season, harvest the fruit when it is well matured, without hurrying, because we also have to maintain a quality level to be able to enter into good programs," Ortuzar stated.

In this context, the Chilean oranges will compete with the valencia orange of California and the Navel orange of South Africa, which enter the market at the same time." The US market has been growing, but as supply increases, prices have been falling. However, every season has its surprises and it's still early to say what will happen," Ortuzar added.



Mandarin and lemon exports are expected to have minimal variations. The country is expected to export 107,000 tons of mandarins in 2019, while in the previous season the figure reached 107,337 tons. In addition, the US market is complex because the state of California had a high production, which left a partially high stock. "Our challenge is to arrive with an impeccable product in quality and caliber. As our volumes and the volumes of the countries that compete with us grow, arriving with a high standard product will help us get into the best programs and ensure a good result," the president of the Citrus Committee stated.

The country is expected to export 88,000 tons of lemons this year, a similar number to the 88,361 tons it exported during 2018. Even though lemon exports look favorable, there is still a lot to be done, as there is a lot of fruit in stock in the Northern Hemisphere, sector voices stated. "There is more fruit from California and also from Spain, so there are also challenges to face in the new lemon season," Juan Enrique Ortuzar said.

China, a new horizon

During these last days, China has finished negotiations with Chile for the entry of other fruits and can now start negotiating with them the entry of citrus fruits. "We are confident that the process could be ready in two years, it's difficult for it to take less time," said the head of the Citrus Committee.

Lien article :

<https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9099124/chile-expects-to-export-3-less-citrus-in-the-2019-season/>

