

## Turkey Citrus Semi-Annual Report 2019

The Turkish citrus sector reported good yields for MY 2018/19 despite the Mediterranean fruit fly problem and rough weather conditions. In order to mitigate those negative factors and not face export rejections, Turkish producers started to harvest their products earlier than normal.

Other factors also affected production such as high input costs, which are almost totally dependent on exchange rates.

For MY 2018/19, orange production estimate is slightly lower than last year at 1.9 million MT and tangerine production is estimated at 1.65 million MT (MMT), up from 1.55 MMT last year. Orange exports are estimated at 350,000 MT, tangerines at 710,000 MT, and lemon exports estimate is 571,000 MT for MY 2018/19. The main reasons for the decline are economic turmoil in neighboring countries and the Mediterranean fruit fly problem, which is the most important reason for rejections by importing countries, mainly Russia.

### Tangerines/Mandarins, Fresh

#### Production

According to the Turkish Statistical Institute, MY 2018/19 tangerines production reached 1.65 million MT, which is a six percent increase when compared with the previous season. In MY 2017/18, tangerine production was 1.55 million MT. This yield in MY 2018/19 is higher than the expectation since the Aegean region had favorable weather conditions in the fall and quality was high.

#### Exports

Tangerines are still the top exported product among all citrus exported from Turkey. Tangerine exports in MY 2018/19 were approximately 710,000 MT which is lower than Post's original estimate and three percent lower than MY 2017/18.

This is due to problems with Mediterranean fruit fly in exports, where Russia rejected some shipments of Turkish tangerines due to the Mediterranean fruit fly and press reports noted there were rejections





for another pest called the `laboratory fly` (*Megaselia scalaris*) which causes diptera disease.

Since foreign market prices are low, Turkish citrus exporters were expecting revenue from exports to be low. As of May 2019, Turkey exported tangerines in MY 2018/19 worth with \$283 million, which is 22 percent lower than MY 2017/18 revenue, as exporters expected.

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