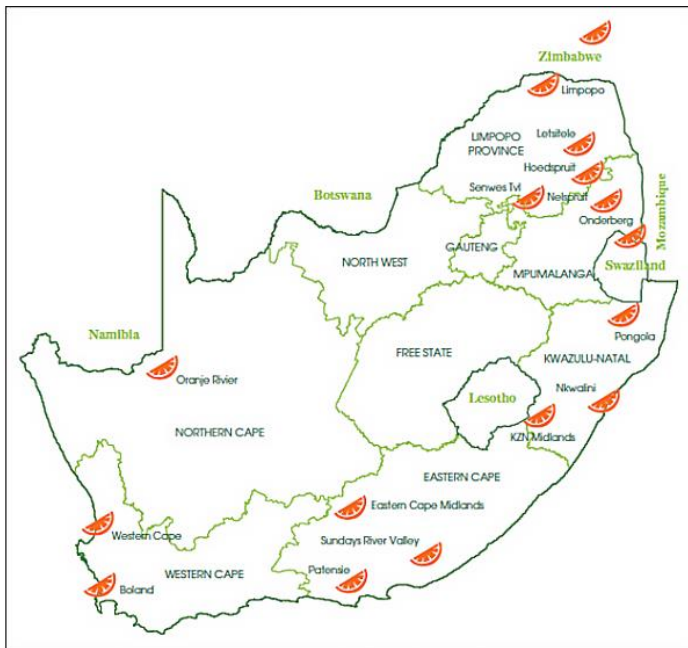




South Africa's citrus area further expanded in 2020

Citrus is cultivated throughout South Africa. But mostly in the Limpopo, Eastern Cape, Western Cape, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, North Cape, and North-West provinces. In 2019, a total of 86,808 hectares of citrus trees were planted in South Africa. That's an increase of six percent compared to 2018. This growth trend is expected to continue to 95,200 hectares in 2020. Significant investments and easy-peelers, lemons, and new orange varieties being eagerly planted contributed to this.



Source: Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Tangerines / Mandarins

Production

The production of tangerines/mandarins is expected to continue its aggressive growth and is forecast to increase by 6 percent to 515,000



MT in the 2020/21 MY, from 486,000 MT in the 2019/20 MY. This is based on the rise in area planted, normal weather conditions, improved winter rainfall received in the main production area of the Western Cape, and the high level of new-plantings in the past years coming into full production. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a minimal impact on labor and input supply.

The 2019/20 MY production of tangerines/mandarins was revised upwards to 486,000 MT, based on final industry data.

There is a growing trend of farmers aggressively establishing new orchards under netting which has improved the water efficiency, yields and the overall quality of soft citrus production in South Africa.

In addition, there is an increasing trend of late varieties being planted, which has seen the peak harvest of soft citrus shift from week 20 (Beginning of May) to between weeks 21 to 30 (Mid-May to July).

About 39 percent of tangerines/mandarins are produced in the Western Cape, followed by 27 percent in the Eastern Cape and 21 percent in Limpopo. The Western Cape is a winter rainfall region, and the 2020 winter rainfall will only be used for irrigation in the following year in 2021. Improved dam levels in the Western Cape in 2019 had a positive impact to the 2019/20 MY crop.

Exports

The export of tangerines/mandarins is forecast to increase by 9 percent to 420,000 MT in the 2020/21 MY, from 385,000 MT in the 2019/20 MY, based on the increase in production and the industry strategy of prioritizing export markets over domestic markets, and a surge in demand due to the assumed benefits of Vitamin C in boosting immunity against COVID-19.



Demand for tangerines/mandarins remains strong in the export markets, with the United Kingdom as the leading export market accounting for 26 percent of the total exports, followed by the Netherlands (21 percent), Russia (8 percent) and the United States (6 percent). Tangerines/mandarins exports are not impacted by South Africa's CBS challenges in the EU market.

Exports to the United States under the AGOA have grown by an average of 15 percent per year over the past four seasons, from 7,444 MT in the 2013/14 MY, to 18,690 MT in the 2018/19 MY. This growth trend is expected to continue based on the rising U.S. market preference for easy peelers, and continued duty free market access under AGOA.

Lien rapport :

https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Citrus%20Annual_Pretoria_South%20Africa%20-%20Republic%20of_12-15-2020

