

Strong demand for mandarins from South Africa

Citrus fruit from South Africa arrives in the U.S. on a weekly basis. At the moment, two container ships are on their way from South Africa to the U.S. East Coast and one, MSC Rosaria, is being loaded in Cape Town. "The MSC Rosaria is now moving through the system and about 50 percent of its load is made up of easy peelers," says Suhanra Conradie with Summer Citrus from South Africa. The container vessel also holds the last bit of Navel oranges, and grapefruit makes up the balance of the shipment. "We do have our own challenges here in South Africa, but moving fruit through the supply chain in the planned timeline is the number one priority for us. In our line of business, dates are everything and to be able to adhere to the demand of the U.S. market, our fruit requires arrival during very specific timelines."



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Premium mandarin product

Demand for late season mandarins is strong this season. "South Africa really has a premium product and there is a strong demand for mandarins from South Africa," shared Conradie. The first shipments have arrived in the U.S., and mandarins are gaining momentum now with the majority of product arriving in August.

In recent years, U.S. consumer brands have played a very important role in promoting mandarin consumption. As a result, demand is year-round. With domestic production gapping in summer, South Africa helps with supply. "We complement the summer fruit arrivals and focus on the needs of U.S. retailers," mentioned Conradie.



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Midnight oranges

Midnight Valencia oranges are next in line. Although harvest has started in a small way, volumes will increase in the next few weeks. Overall, South Africa's citrus harvest is two weeks earlier on all varieties. "However, this didn't have an impact as we ship based on the demand of the market," Conradie said. "Adhering to the demand of the market and providing consumers with fresh, high-quality fruit in summer has been our strength and continues to drive our success and growth in the U.S. market."

For more information:

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