

Horticulture subsector desk

Current burning issues in the fruit industry



Challenges at port (Cape Town) still frustrating fruit exporters

Recently, stone fruit storage facilities had to stop packing due to a lack of cooling space and electrical power points available at the port.

Role players in the industry are calling for the partial privatisation of port operations to enable a private loading area for fruit organisations, according to Hortgro's latest newsletter. A call has also been made for experts to be roped in to deal with operational problems at the port.



EU Citrus exporters/ FCM

July 2022 the European Union imposed new restrictions on South African citrus imports. The new phytosanitary requirements were meant to address false codling moth, a citrus pest that is native to South Africa and for which there is zero tolerance in the EU. This, however, has had disastrous implications for South African citrus producers.



Loadshedding

Load shedding and cuts in the electricity supply across South Africa is threatening compliance with new EU false codling moth (FCM) regulations on South African oranges. The impact of South Africa's load shedding is weighing on the citrus industry that must run costly generators to keep fruit fresh as the European Union's (EU) new cold storage regulations loom.

At the export harbors, cold storage operators, especially in the Eastern and Western Cape, are feeling the pressure, the Citrus Growers' Association (CGA) has said, according to a report by Business insider. Second to the impact on cold storage operations, the power outages have affected farmers' ability to harvest and pack fruit, just as the industry moves into its peak harvest season.