

24 January 2020

## AN OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK FOR POME FRUIT GROWERS

A normal pome fruit season is anticipated for the 2020 season. With good 2019 winter rain, many of the growers are able to prepare a good crop. In general, colour development and pack-outs looks promising at this stage. Only on the early pears sizing and colouring has been negatively affected by the heatwave experienced during mid-January 2020.

An increase in most apple crop varieties will be seen in 2020. This is due to young orchards coming into production as well as the Ceres region returning to a normal crop. A 6% increase is estimated for apples but pear exports are estimated to be on down 3% compared to the previous season.

### Pome fruit export estimate (12.5 kg equivalent cartons)

POME	Carton eqv. (kg)	2017	2018	2019	2 yr Average	2020 Estimate	Estimate vs 2019	
Apples	12,5	33 423 558	31 451 813	<b>33 871 533</b>	32 661 673	<b>35 744 370</b>	1 872 837	<b>6%</b>
Pears	12,5	17 473 384	16 971 952	<b>17 093 273</b>	17 624 374	<b>16 644 141</b>	-449 132	<b>-3%</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>50 896 942</b>	<b>48 423 765</b>	<b>50 964 806</b>	<b>50 148 092</b>	<b>52 388 511</b>	<b>1 423 705</b>	<b>3%</b>

Apple hectares have stabilized over the past few years, however growers have been replacing older and marginal orchards. This contributes to the Y-O-Y growth in apple exports estimated at 35,7 million cartons considering younger orchards starting to come into production.

For red apples an increase of 30% Y-O-Y is expected mainly due to the Ceres region returning to a normal crop. Granny Smith will be on par with 2019 volumes due to a lighter fruit set and the removal of older orchards.

Pear exports are estimated at 16.6mil eqv. cartons, down 3% compared to 2019. Abate Fetel will be down by 25% Y-O-Y) due to very poor fruit set. Williams Bon Chretien is also



expected to decrease by 9%, due to smaller fruit size and a competitive price projected by the processing industry.

In summary: An average apple crop is expected above the 2 year average, but with pears being slightly below the 2 year average. Growers should be able raise a good crop with adequate water being available, which should lead to good eating and keeping quality.

The situation will be monitored on a regular basis and relevant adjustments will be published from time to time as the season unfolds.

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