

Dr Pieter Scholtz - Blydevallei

High packouts expected on early Valencias and mandarins

With the early lemon and grapefruit campaigns already behind them, Blydevallei in Hoedspruit, Limpopo, now focuses on their early Valencias and soft citrus.



The Valencia season has newly kicked off (photos supplied by Blydevallei)

“The Valencia season is in its infancy, but so far the quality and fruit size look really good. We expect a crop peaking on counts 64/72 and high packouts,” says Dr Pieter Scholtz, veterinarian turned fruit farmer and owner of Blydevallei. “We’ve already started with our mandarins, we’re currently busy with our Royal Honey Murcotts and when they’re done, we’ll switch over to the Nadorcotts by week 24. The mandarins are also looking good this season with vivid colour and high sugars.”

The Hoedspruit company produces a million cartons of citrus per year, grown on 700ha of citrus (grapefruit, soft citrus, lemons and Valencias), as well as 5,000 tonnes of mangoes, much of it packed into its widely recognised Canyon Gold brand.

“Over the past fifteen years most of our citrus exports are done in our own Canyon Gold brand and in many markets it has already become a very popular brand. On mangoes, the Canyon Gold brand is mostly used for the local market,” adds Charlene Leicester, marketing manager at Blydevallei.



“When it comes to citrus we’re as a producer fully integrated in the cost chain, so we produce citrus, we pack our own fruit and that of outside producers, and handle the fruit ourselves along the logistics chain to the end consumer,” he says. “We do make use of exporters to specific markets or clients, but we also handle our own exports to, among others, Europe and China.”

The closure of Chinese ports due to lockdown, as well as the war in Ukraine, have resulted in an exceptionally difficult grapefruit campaign this year. Blydevallei produces around 300,000 15kg cartons of class 1 grapefruit in a season.

“Unfortunately because we’re so early on our lemons, most of the EU retail programmes haven’t yet switched over and so most of our lemons go to receivers in the Middle East and Russia. Currently the European lemon market is fantastic.”

The late rains fortunately came after their lemons were picked.



From left to right: Blydevallei's Thabiso Ndlovu, Jabulani Mathebula and Samuel Morema



BLYDEVALLEI

For more information:

Charlene Leicester

Blydevallei

Tel: +27 15 795 5087

Email: charlene@blydevallei.co.za

<https://blydevallei.co.za/>

Publication date: Thu 9 Jun 2022

Author: [Carolize Jansen](#)

© [FreshPlaza.com](#)