

MAIN EXPORT CROPS OF ZIMBABWE

Issued 11th March 2014

(Extracted from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 1 of 2014)²

Over the last decade Zimbabwe has embarked on a number of projects to boost agricultural output. As a result, exports now include stone fruits, soft fruits to seed oils, tree and ground nuts and vegetables such as mange-tout peas to name a few.

30c: Flower Exports



Since its peak in the late 90's Horticulture production has significantly decreased. According to the Zimbabwe Budget there has been a slow increase in production in recent years and this is forecast to continue increasing in 2014. This may be attributed to new horticultural projects and Government drive. Main horticultural products in Zimbabwe include cut flowers, mange-tout peas and spices.

75c: Cotton



Cotton was considered to be white gold in Zimbabwe. Having centralised sales cotton has long been a popular small-holding crop in Zimbabwe. Outputs of cotton have been used in the textile industries, animal feed and fertilizer industries. Both raw cotton and cotton-based products have been exported by Zimbabwe in the past. The 2014 Zimbabwe budget states that the increased global competition in cotton-related industries have made cotton a low-returns crop and as a result cotton growing has declined significantly in recent years. Cotton production efforts in 2014 have been shifted to focus on increasing per hectare volume and quality of cotton produced.

85c: Tea



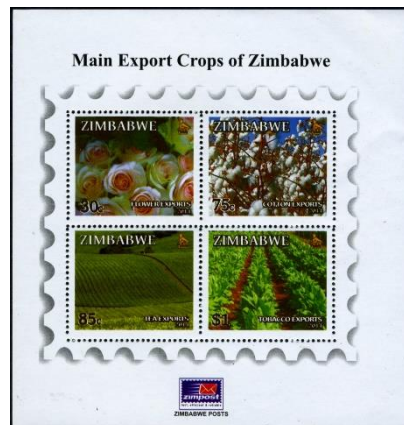
About 6 million hectares of tea is grown in Zimbabwe's Honde Valley and Chipinge in the Eastern Highlands. National production amounts to about 15 million kg of tea. 80% is exported mainly to Europe, Britain, Middle East and Southern African states. 20% is consumed locally. Young tea shoots are picked and withered in overnight troughs to reduce moisture then pass through cutting machines. The tea is oxidised and dried. This tea is graded and packed for export.

\$1: Tobacco



Flue cured tobacco output in Zimbabwe has increased by almost 300% in the last 5 years. Tobacco's high returns has made a popular small holding farmer crop. Tobacco accounts for more than 10% of Zimbabwe's GDP making it important to Zimbabwe's economy. In 2013 over 160 thousand tonnes of flue cured tobacco were produced. About 88,600 ha of tobacco was planted in 2013. Zimbabwe exports to a number of countries but China remains the main export destination for Zimbabwe's tobacco.

The Stamps



(Reduced to 50% of size)

Catalogue Listings

SG	ZSC ¹	Value	Description
1363	765	30c	Flower Exports
1364	766	75c	Cotton Exports
1365	767	85c	Tea Exports
1366	768	\$1	Tobacco Exports
MS1367	MS33		Miniature sheet with four stamps in se-tenant block

Technical details




Stamp size:	Sheet stamps: 35 x 30 mm Miniature sheet: 105 x 110 mm
Sheet Size:	50 stamps (10 rows of 5 stamps), two panes per printed sheet
Artist:	Cindy Stamps
Paper:	ZSC paper type J: paper described by Zimpost as “Chancellor Litho PVA Gummed Postage Stamp Paper”. This paper is produced by Tullis Russell Coaters of Glenrothes, Fife, Scotland. Under UV there is no fluorescence either front or back, the stamp appears to be very dark
Print colours:	Cyan, magenta, yellow & black
Perforations:	SG 14½ x 14; ZSC 14¼ x 14 Sheet stamps: Top margin: Perforated through Other margins: Imperforate Miniature sheet: Imperforate margins
Printer:	NatPrint, Harare, Zimbabwe
Printer’s Imprint:	Sheet stamps only: Bottom Margin, below Row 10 Column 3. Imprint printed in black
Cylinder numbers:	Sheet stamps only: Top margin above R1/1. Colours from left – cyan, magenta, yellow, black
Colour register:	Sheet stamps only: Type TL 4– round boxed – left margin opposite R1/1. Colours reading down – cyan, magenta, yellow, black
Sheet Value:	Sheet stamps only: Top margin, above R1/5, printed in black
Sheet Number:	Type SN 7 with printed ‘ZIMPOST’ prefix, right margin opposite R1/5 reading down
Print numbers:	30c 600,000 75c 10,000 85c 10,000 \$1 10,000 Miniature sheet: 1,500
Issue date:	11 th March 2014

Listed Varieties

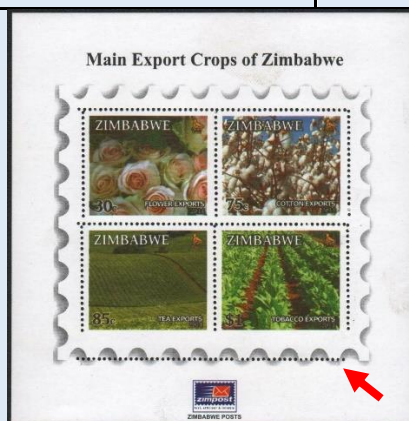
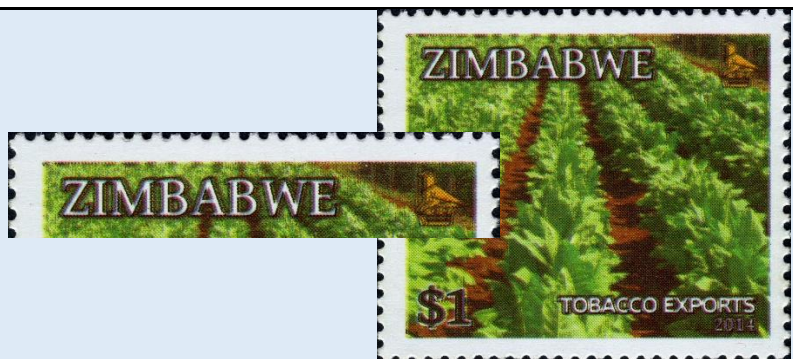
No listed varieties have been reported.

Unlisted Varieties

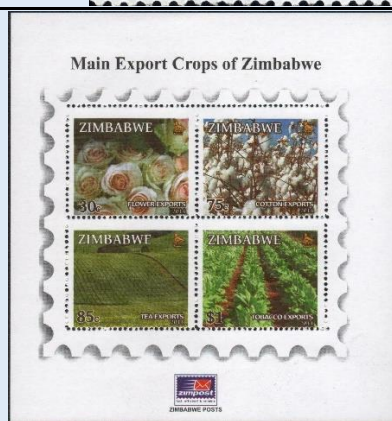
Numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps were noted in the examination of the sheets with missing black printing.

<p>30c: Shift of perforations to the left</p> <p><i>(Source: eBay March 2021)</i></p>	
<p>30c: Shift of perforations to right</p> <p><i>(Source eBay May 2021)</i></p>	
<p>85c: Movement of printing plates. See outline of 'Zimbabwe;', the Zimbabwe bird and the edges of the image.</p>	

\$1: Movement of printing plates. See outline of 'Zimbabwe;', the Zimbabwe bird and the edges of the image.



Miniature sheet: Bottom horizontal perforation movement downwards
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



Miniature sheet: Horizontal perforation movement upwards into edge of design
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)

First Day Cover

No first day covers were made available by the Philatelic Bureau, covers can, however be found with the Harare First Day of Issue canceller on plain covers and Bureau manila stationery.

Bibliography:

1. "The Zimbabwean Concise Postage Stamp Catalogue", published by Harare Stamp Company, edited by Ken Allanson, Mike Amos and Geoff Brakspear. The catalogue continues to be updated and expanded by Geoff Brakspear, and is now published on the Rhodesian Study Circle website.
2. Zimbabwe Post, Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 1 of 2014

Additions/Changes since December 2020	
8/2021	30c: shift of perforations to left and to right – 2 x blocks of 4