

CGA Variety Update (2017_Week 15)

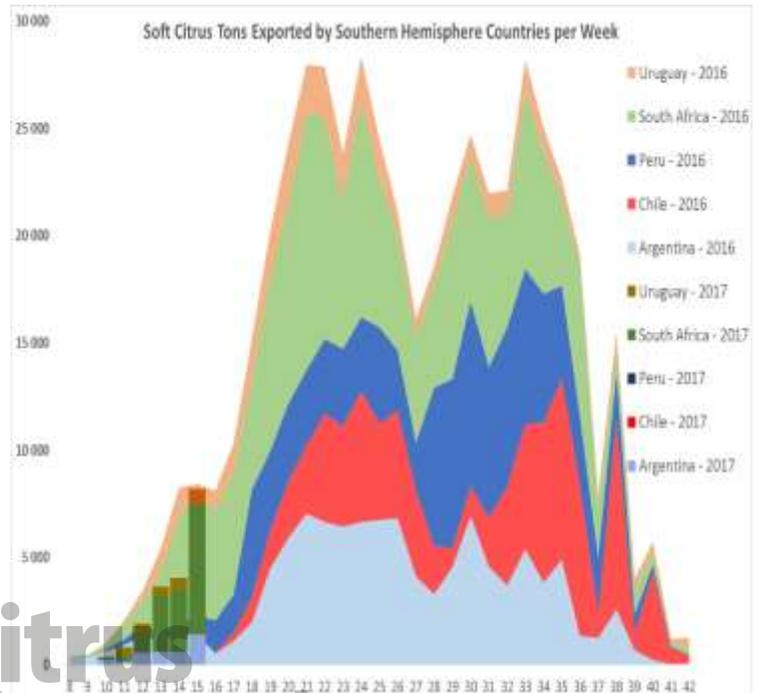
John Edmonds (21 April 2017)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

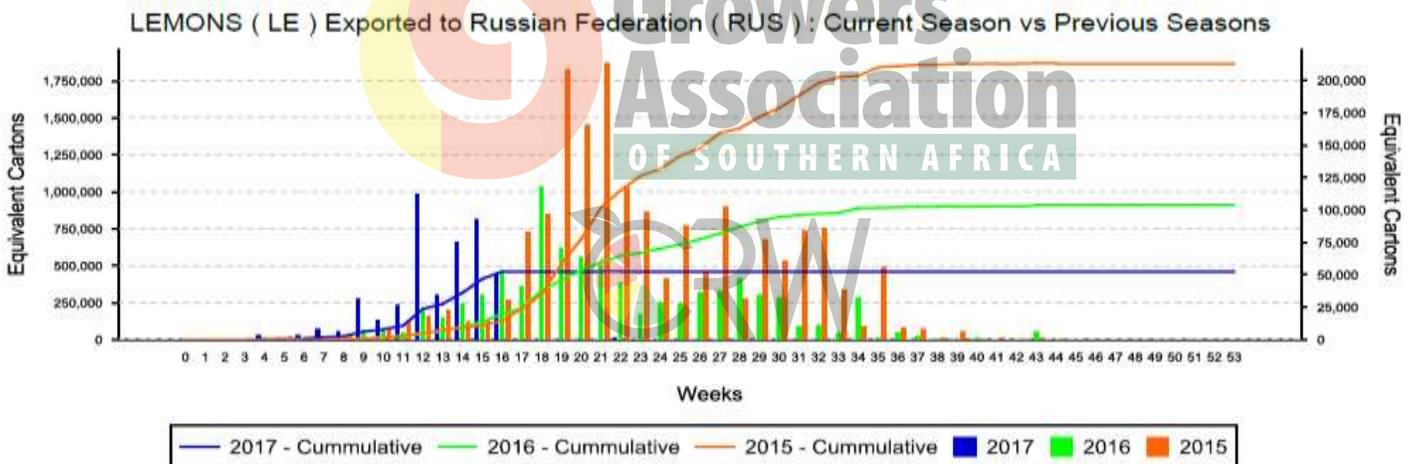
Soft citrus:

Whilst other Southern Hemisphere countries are only just starting, satsuma packing in South Africa continues at a pace similar to last year (around 1.2 million cartons) to the end of week 15, cumulatively 25% less than last year's 1.6 million cartons. The graph on the right from available (excluding 2017 Peru) data indicates that Argentina and Uruguay have also started slowly. In general prices in Europe are steady, similar to the previous two years.



Lemons:

Almost 2.8 million cartons were packed and passed for export to end week 15 versus last year's 2.2 million and 2015's 1.4 million cartons at the same time. More than half of this has been directed to the Middle East, whilst Russia has received significantly more than they did at the same time last year (see graph below)



Oranges:

Fears that the Navel export crop could drop from the 26.3 million cartons estimates in March to below 24 million cartons were confirmed with Sunday's River Valley indicating they will be at least 36% down on last year's 6.3 million cartons i.e. below 4 million cartons and Patensie conservatively 26 % down. The Navel Focus Group will meet on 16 May to formally revise their 2017 projection.

Prices in Europe are firming up (best brands Spanish Navelate €1.00/€1.2 per kg in France week 15).

Grapefruit:

Grapefruit packing has picked up briskly with almost 761 000 cartons packed to end of week 15; double the volume packed at a similar juncture in the previous two years. Early volumes have come from Limpopo River (428 K cartons) and Hoedspruit (290 K cartons) at the end of week 15.

Reports from the markets indicate steady demand whilst supply is dropping off from Spain, Turkey and Israel whilst Florida is done. Hence, prices are maintained at high levels. (just over 1 Euro per kg for Israeli grapefruit in France in week 14, compared to around € 0.8 at the same time in the previous two years. The market sentiment is bullish for a smooth transition to Southern African supply.