

# CGA Variety Update (2017\_Week 17)

John Edmonds (8 May 2017)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

## Soft citrus:

Soft citrus shipments at 1.8 million cartons are tracking the same as 2015, but behind last year's 2.4 million cartons at the end of week 17. For satsumas, the Western Cape/Boland area are about 8% behind last year's, year-to-date packed volumes. Agrihub shipping data reveals 1.7 million cartons shipped to end week 18 of which 1.5 million were satsumas as Clementines start to come on stream.

The recently released SHAFFE estimate for 2017 shows an expected 4% increase in soft citrus exports. RSA is the biggest exporter with 36 per cent of the Southern Hemisphere export offer. Peruvian exports (22% of the SHAFFE total) are estimated at 120 000 tonnes, seven per cent higher than 2016. Chile (20% of SHAFFE exports) expect 109 000 tonnes up 13% on last year. Uruguay expects to export 36 000 tonnes of mandarins, similar to last year whilst Argentinean mandarins at 33 000 tonnes drop by 33 per cent from 2016.

## Lemons:

As in 2016, 3.8 million cartons have been packed and passed for export this year to end week 17.

The 2017 SHAFFE estimate shows an expected 2.4% increase in lemon exports. Argentina and RSA are the dominant exporters each with a 42% share (about 260 000 tonnes each). Whilst RSA lemon exports are up 16% Argentina predicts a fall of 7% although recent reports indicate a good quality crop. Chile with a 12% share is the only other significant player and they expect a 5% drop to 72 000 tonnes. In 2017 to end week 17, Russia has received significantly more than they did at the same time last year from both Argentina and South Africa. (See graphs below)



## Oranges:

Prices in Europe remain high. A kilo of quality oranges of the varieties Powel, Barnfield or Valencia Late stands above 1.20 Euro and 0.8 to 0.9 Euros for standard brands.

Argentina Oranges (45,000 tonnes) drop by 31 per cent,

## Grapefruit:

Grapefruit packing at almost 2.6 million cartons to end of week 17 is similar to 2015's 2.5 million cartons.

In Europe deliveries from Israel have ended and stocks should be available until end of May. The first batches from RSA have entered the market earlier than previous years. Sizing is averaging around size of 40. First RSA fruits are reported to have good aesthetics and fruits have been sold easily and prices have remained high for all origins.

## Important Notice to all growers and Exporters:

A strong message from all variety focus group meetings thus far is that growers and exporters **MUST** adhere to the CRI's recommendations with respect to temperatures of shipments to Europe.