

CGA Variety Update (2017_Week 14)

John Edmonds (13 April 2017)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Lemons:

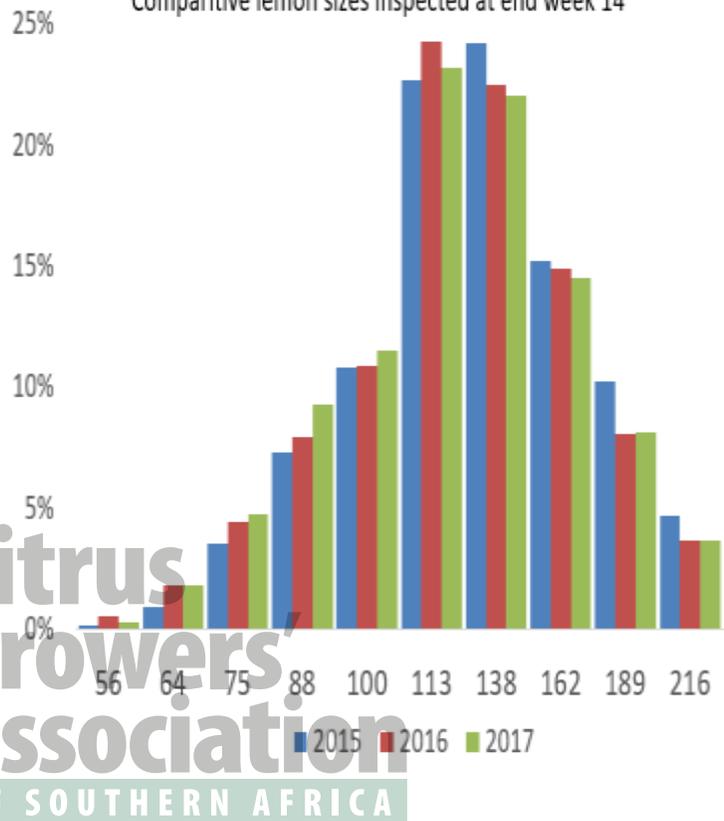
Almost 2.4 million cartons were packed and passed for export to end week 14 versus last year's 1.6 million at the same time.

Oranges:

No significant volumes of oranges have been packed yet although there are fears that the Navel crop could be significantly down on the 26.3 million cartons estimate. The Navel Focus Group will meet in May to revise the 2017 projection.

Reports from Europe indicate that the Navelate/Lanelate season should be over by the end of April leaving just Powel navels in the market. Mediterranean Valenciate supply is ahead of schedule. Due to poor weather affecting flowering, and the crop in general; less fruit is expected than originally estimated but with better sizes. Thus a similar, moderate final volume to that of 2016 is anticipated.

Comparative lemon sizes inspected at end week 14



Soft citrus:

Soft citrus packing continues at a pace similar to last year (around 870 000 cartons) to the end of week 14. The Soft Citrus Focus Group met today and reviewed the estimate. Patensie and Eastern Cape Midlands adjusted their satsumas down slightly citing small fruit as the reason. Thus the satsuma projection drops to under 2 million cartons but the overall soft citrus projection is effectively unchanged at 13.2 million cartons. The representatives urged growers to adhere strictly to the CRI guidelines for shipping to Europe and noted that an application had been made by the Soft Citrus Focus Group to DAFF to make the CRI recommendations for satsumas mandatory.

Reports are that the South African satsumas are arriving in good condition in the markets and early colour concerns arising from cold temperature shipping have apparently not been realised thus far.

Grapefruit:

The grapefruit season has kicked off with almost 360 000 cartons packed to end of week 14. After two relatively low volumes years, the 2017 estimate sees a return to historical levels.

Pigmented grapefruit estimates are up 1.5 million cartons on last year i.e. 14%. Marsh estimates are up 12.7%. Thus total grapefruit is up by almost 1.7 million cartons (13.9%); similar to 2014 and 2015. The estimate shows a normal size distribution. The Grapefruit Taste Company issued a newsletter this week urging growers to be responsible with the quality of their supply and repeat the trend of the last two years of spreading the supply period to the markets.

Reports from the markets indicate a good transition from northern hemisphere supply. The Florida season is almost over (possibly end of April). Turkey is mostly finished. The Spanish season is almost one and a half months ahead of schedule and expected to finish early or mid-May. Israel could also some volume until mid-May. Thus prices are high and should potentially remain so, depending on southern hemisphere supply.