

# CGA Variety Update (2017\_Week 22)

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Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

## Soft citrus:

The projection was adjusted this week back to the original 3.2 million cartons. Satsumas are down 15% to 1.7 million cartons, Clems down 7% to 2.9 million cartons whilst other mandarin types are up 19% to 8.5 million cartons. Soft citrus shipments at 3.9 million cartons are 18% behind last year's 4.8 million cartons at the end of week 22.

Data from other Southern Hemisphere exporters shows Peru shipping slightly higher volumes to UK and E.U. compared to last year. Russia continues to import higher year on year volumes from Argentina and South Africa with small contributions from Uruguay and Peru appearing in this market in 2017.

## Lemons:

The projected final export remains at March's estimate of 17.5 million cartons. Current shipping is up to 7.7 million cartons; 13% up on the 6.8 million cartons last year. SHAFTE data shows Russia having imported 20 000 tons more lemons from South Africa and Argentina by the end of week 22.

## Oranges:

A joint teleconference of the Navel Focus Group and Valencia Focus Group was held this week. Navel projections were revised down further this week to 22.6 million cartons vs March's estimate of 26.3 million cartons. Valencias still projected at 49.4 million cartons. The current packing tempo of the limited expected volume of navels aided by extra capacity in the Eastern Cape and good weather points to an early finish of the season. Thus packing of valencias is expected to start earlier. There is a sentiment that those growers who can hang their fruit longer may reap the benefits later in the season.

## Grapefruit:

Latest projection remains at 13.2 million cartons; down on the initial estimate of 13.8 million cartons. Shipping volumes lag last year's by 23% to end week 22. The Grapefruit Focus Group met last week and sentiment was that prospects looked good for a favourable distribution of the grapefruit exports with the early start of packing meeting the early demand and with some growers slowing down to pack Turkey Valencias. Although the situation looks healthy overall, some are of the opinion that the volumes may drop off earlier than normal.

