

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO

"I see people rise in life who are not the smartest, sometimes not even the most diligent, but they are learning machines. They go to bed every night a little wiser than they were when they got up and boy does that help." (Charlie Munger)

On Heritage Day

Writing when your mind is convinced you should rest doesn't come easily, and perhaps you should have braaied first and added some lemon to the drink. It was a very warm afternoon, a bit telling of how the story around the El Niño, as predicted, might turn out. Last week I wrote from Europe and, by all accounts, it was a good trip from a trade diplomacy point of view. The stop at the Embassy in Brussels and the briefing with the Ambassador were very successful, and, given the challenges around the Food and Feed Safety Simplification Omnibus legislation in the EU, and the toenadering by the UK with the EU, we have our work cut out for us – but the team in Brussels is certainly up to the task. We wish them well, and we are on standby to support them as needed. Feedback suggests our visit with the Commission was timely. We were well received and had a very good exchange. Government-to-government exchanges were also cordial and, as an outcome, will reinforce practices on where and how interceptions are recorded and transmitted

The war in the Middle East has been a factor throughout most of the season, which is slowly coming to an end. As the CGA, we are entering planning mode for the next season, and I sense we should anticipate the conflict and its related challenges persisting into the next season. Whilst we remain proponents of Private Sector Participations (PSP's) in rail and ports to improve conditions under which our citrus gets exported, the lesson this year is undoubtedly that it is going to be a slow turnaround, and we therefore must factor this in and pre-empt the peak of our season with better plans with all ports going forward. We've noted the fortnightly meetings they've implemented at DGT, and we appreciate the undertaking, as they will ensure that industries like us have a better sense of how things look and can factor that into plans made.

Wandile Sihlobo writes that El Niño follows a period of good rainfall, with soil moisture levels still healthy. He adds that growers may have made sound plans and that dams retain some reserve capacity, should conditions become as hot and dry as anticipated.

I do take the opportunity to wish you a very good Heritage Day and hope that you too have had the chance to braai, with some lemon in your drink.

OBSOLETE PESTICIDE DESTRUCTION

Crop Life SA has started phase II of their obsolete plant protection product stock removal, this time, countrywide. The service will be available, free of charge, from now until mid-November 2026. Growers are encouraged to contact Gerhard Verdoorn (gerhard@croplife.co.za) and Mark Campbell (northernobspesticides@croplife.co.za) for more information on how to partake in the initiative.

PACKED AND SHIPPED VOLUMES

End of week 38 million 15 kg cartons	Packed	Packed	*Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed	Vision 260
SOURCE: PPECB / AGRIHUB	2024	2025	2026	2025	2026	2026	2026	2025	2026
*Grapefruit	14.4 m	15.2 m	15.1 m	15 m	14.5 m	17.8 m	16.1 m	15.3 m	15.5 m
Lemons	34.6 m	40.7 m	50.6 m	39.5 m	47.6 m	45.9 m	50.5 m	41.6 m	43.4 m
Mandarins	41.3 m	51.4 m	49.9 m	47 m	46.3 m	52.7 m	50.5 m	53.5 m	50 m
Navels	25 m	31.2 m	24.7 m	29.6 m	23.3 m	30 m	24.8 m	31.6 m	32.3 m
Valencia	44.5 m	55.1 m	50.6 m	47.2 m	40.7 m	63 m	56.6 m	62 m	67.8 m
Total	159.8 m	193.6 m	190.9 m	178.3 m	172.4 m	209.4 m	198.5 m	204 m	209 m

*Inspection figures are only updated until week 36, due to a technical error on the PPECB system. For any questions, please contact albert@cga.co.za or bi@ppecb.co.za

INTERESTING FACTS

South African exported over 1 million boxes of fruit for the first time in 1925.

For the latest South African citrus packed and shipped volumes, please visit the CGA website:

[Stats 01 – Shipping & Cold](#)

[Stores Stock Statistics](#)

[Dashboard | CGA](#)

CGA CITRUS SUMMIT

Registration for the 2027 CGA Citrus Summit is now open to **growers!** We encourage all growers to **register** early and secure your place **before** registration opens to the general public on **1 October 2026**.

CGA GROUP INFO

CITRUS SUSTAINABILITY FORUM (CSF)

Date: 6 November 2026

Time: 09:00am

Venue: MS Teams

Link: To follow on email