

CGA Variety Update (2017_Week 19)

John Edmonds (19 May 2017)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Soft citrus:

The Soft Citrus Focus Group met last Thursday. The projection was adjusted up slightly to 13.5 million cartons from March's estimated 13.2 million cartons. Growers noted cold damage suffered by satsumas shipped at recommended temperatures. Soft citrus shipments at 2.2 million cartons are tracking 18% behind last year's 2.7 million cartons at the end of week 19. Peru data (only to week 16) shows an early start in the U.K and significant exports to Russia in 2017.

Lemons:

The Lemon Focus Group met last Thursday to review the estimate which remains unchanged from March's estimate of 17.5 million cartons. Cumulative shipping to end week 19 is 4.4 million cartons compared to last year's 4.3 million cartons. As in 2016, 3.8 million cartons have been packed and passed for export this year to end week 17. Both South Africa and Argentina have sent much higher early volumes into Russia this year.

Oranges:

Representatives of the Navel Focus Group and Valencia Focus Group had a teleconference yesterday. Key points noted were that predicted exports of Navels were revised down to 22.9 million cartons from March's estimate of 26.3 million cartons and Valencias were revised down to 49.4 million cartons from March's estimate of 50.1 million cartons. Although export volumes are down due to splitting, the quality of the export fruit is good.

Week 19 Agrihub data shows current Navel exports to be lagging by 68% (581K vs 1.8 million cartons last year).

Grapefruit:

Grapefruit packing to end week 19 is up at 4.6 million (actual) cartons compared to last year's 2.9 million cartons and 2015's 4.2 million cartons. At yesterday's Grapefruit Focus Group teleconference the projection was revised to 13.2 million cartons; down on the initial estimate of 13.8 million cartons.

They observed that, with the drop in Navel export volumes and early colour development on Valencias, there is an opportunity to prioritise early Valencia packing and delaying Star Ruby supply until later in the season. This will serve both the Orange and Grapefruit markets well.

