

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (22/13)

Justin Chadwick (31 May 2013)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK "Some people dance in the rain – others get wet" Bob Marley

DURBAN PORT

It is very early in the season, and already Durban port is coming under pressure due to the surge in early season production. In total the cold stores are ¾ full, with some of the bigger cold stores between 90 and 100% full. A further swing to containers means that container load outs are high; this is putting Durban under huge pressure resulting in delays. Things could get worse as the high volume oranges come on stream and CGA would therefore advise the following;

- Make sure that your truck has been booked in and arrives in time; trucks that are booked are offloaded first. If possible load trucks with a full consignment designated to one cold store only.
- Ensure that there is space at the designated cold store for your consignment.
- Enquire about the availability of empty containers. Make sure the shipping lines have the latest forecasts.
- Enquire about the shipping opportunities – make sure your fruit is not likely to stand and consume much needed space.

The CGA has Faisal Asmal and Mitchell Brooke assessing port conditions on a Tuesday and Friday, compiling a report which is available to all citrus growers and packhouse personnel. If you wish to be on the distribution list contact Mitchell Brooke mitchell@cga.co.za

CONDITION OF CARTONS (Message from Dawid Groenewald of CRI)

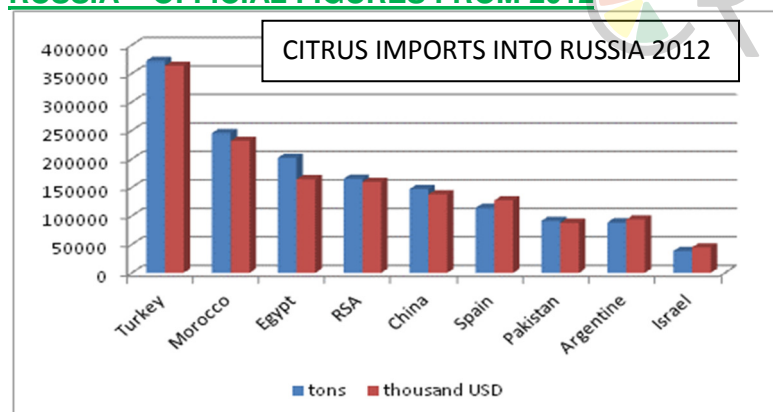
The Packaging Working Group (which forms part of the CRI-Postharvest Technical Forum) was established in 2007. The most important responsibilities were to put proper specifications in place again and to ensure that all cartons comply with the specifications. Grateful to report that the quality of the cartons improved dramatically. During the 2010 citrus season the Packaging Working Group was requested to accredit the carton manufacturers. The process started during the latter part of the 2010 season. Cartons were sent to a SANAS accredited laboratory for compliance tests. In addition Packhouse and CRI samples were also submitted and tested. During the 2011 season the process continued. On an ongoing basis cartons were submitted and tested for compliance. Export organisations, growers, shipping lines and overseas buyers were invited to give us feedback on the performance of the cartons. At the end of the 2011 season all the above-mentioned information was analyzed critically and the following carton manufacturers were accredited in November 2011. (In alphabetical order)

APL Cartons; Corruaseal; Houers Koöperatief; Mpack Corrugated; Nampak Corrugated; New Era Packaging; Sunnypacks Manufacturing.

During January 2012 a schedule was drawn up and during February to September 2012 cartons were submitted and tested for compliance with the relevant specifications. In cases where cartons did not comply the results were immediately discussed with the relevant supplier and corrective steps were taken. In November 2012 all the data was again analyzed and the same carton manufacturers listed above were accredited for the 2013 season. The whole accreditation process is continuing in 2013.

We suspect that some of the carton manufacturers are not always using the specified paper grades (Virgin Liners and Semi-chemical Fluting). Started with thorough investigations and our findings will be made available soonest. Growers must please make sure that their cartons are manufactured with Virgin Liners and Semi-chemical Fluting.

RUSSIA – OFFICIAL FIGURES FROM 2012



The Russian fruit and vegetable market remains highly dependent on imported produce, with about one third of all fresh produce imported, according to data from the Russian Federal State Statistics Service.

In 2012, total imports of fresh produce in Russia made up 8.89 million metric tons (MT), which was nearly 15% smaller than in the peak of 2011, which was largely affected by the 2010 drought. The largest categories in 2012 were citrus with 1.58 million MT of total imports (-4.9% compared to 2011), apples at 1.27 million MT (+7.6%) and bananas at 1.26 million MT (-3%).
Source: Freshfel

PACKED AND SHIPPED

To Week 22 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB	2011	2012	2013	2012	2013	2013	2013	2012
Grapefruit	7.1 m	7.3 m	9.7 m	5.4 m	6.1 m	15 m	15.2 m	13 m
Soft Citrus	3.3 m	3.4 m	3.7 m	2.6 m	2.7 m	8.2 m	8.1 m	7.6 m
Lemons	3.7 m	3.4 m	4.8 m	2.7 m	3.8 m	11.1 m	10.1 m	10.5 m
Navels	4.5 m	4.3 m	3.7 m	1.5 m	1.9 m	24.9 m	24.9 m	24.6 m
Valencia	0.2 m	0.1 m	0.1 m	0.1 m	-	47.7 m	47.7 m	47.2 m
	18.8 m	18.5 m	22 m	12.3 m	14.5 m	106.8 m	106 m	103 m

**SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS GROWERS' FUND THEIR FUTURE THROUGH THE LEVY
ADMINISTERED BY THE CGA**