

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (23/20)

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Justin Chadwick 19 June 2020



"Agriculture is our wisest pursuit because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals and happiness" Thomas Jefferson

COVID-19 COMPLIANCE OFFICER – YOUR MOST VALUABLE EMPLOYEE

It is a requirement that all businesses appoint a COVID-19 Compliance Officer. This person is responsible for implementing all COVID-19 requirements in the workplace. It is essential that these Officers are 100% conversant with the workplace guidelines, they must have done a risk assessment, and implemented risk mitigation. All employees at the workplace must know who the Officer is, and must feel free to approach the Officer should they feel at risk. The Officer should also ensure compliance – and be empowered to call out those who flaunt the rules. It is clear – government has shifted the responsibility to all of us to ensure we stay healthy.

To assist COVID-19 Compliance Officers to understand their responsibilities the Citrus Academy has designed a short presentation. The plan is to present this to all COVID-19 Compliance Officers (and anybody else who may be interested). Here is the link that people can use to register for the Covid-19 Compliance Officer Zoom training course: <https://www.citrusacademy.co.za/courses/e-learning-courses/covid-19-compliance-officer-training>

We have put up two dates to start with. We will monitor registrations closely and add more as the need arises. CGA would also like to communicate with all COVID-19 Compliance Officers – please send your name and details to Paul Hardman at ph@cga.co.za

TREND ANALYSIS – NOT IN 2020

Many of us love to look at figures, graphs and tables; we love analysing what happened in the past, using this to determine what will happen in the future. Be careful when doing that in 2020. Take grapefruit packing and shipping as an example. The season happened to be early, but exporters also saw the need to try and pack and ship as quickly as possible – the rationale being to get as much as possible into the market due to their relative emptiness, and due to the fact that there could be a shortage of workers later in the season (as the pandemic strengthened). Those watching the grapefruit loadings may have assumed that this indicated a high volume season; but look at this week's figures: grapefruit packing is now below both 2018 and 2019. Almost 80% of the seasons grapefruit are now in cartons.

The delay in vessels will mean some bunching in the markets – this does not necessarily mean more fruit, shipping will not follow the pattern of previous years.

So be careful when applying previous years' trends to what is happening in 2020.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

Million 15 Kg Cartons to end Week 24	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB/AgriHub	2018	2019	2020	2019	2020	2020	2020	2019
Grapefruit	13.5 m	12 m	11.2 m	8.6 m	8.6 m	16.7 m	14.6 m	16.1 m
Soft Citrus	7.4 m	7.6 m	9.6 m	5.3 m	7.1 m	23.3 m	22.6 m	18.3 m
Lemons	11 m	11.5 m	17.2 m	8.2 m	13.6 m	26.4 m	27.6 m	22.1 m
Navels	11.4 m	9.9 m	10.8 m	4.5 m	5.9 m	26.5 m	26.5 m	24.3 m

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Valencia	1 m	1.4 m	2.3 m	0.1 m	0.5 m	50.4 m	50.5 m	46.8 m
Total	44.3 m	42.4 m	51.1 m	26.7 m	35.7 m	143.3 m	141.8 m	127.5 m



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