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CGA revises lemon export estimate upwards by 3.6m cartons

22ND JUNE 2026 BY: [MARLENY ARNOLDI](#) - ONLINE NEWS EDITOR



The Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa (CGA) has revised its export estimate for the 2026 lemon

season upwards from 45.8-million 15 kg cartons to 49.4-million cartons, which reflects the dynamic and somewhat unpredictable nature of the current season.

The adjustment is largely attributed to favourable growing conditions across key producing regions. Although the season started later than usual, three significant cold fronts accelerated fruit colour development, contributing to improved readiness for export. Increased rainfall in many lemon-producing areas has resulted in a positive growth curve, supporting larger fruit sizes, ultimately resulting in higher carton volumes.

The CGA says strong coordination, effective communication and logistical capacity across the value chain will assist in managing the increased volumes. These efforts aim to ensure a steady and stable supply of fruit to global markets, preventing under- and oversupply at any given time.

The association explains that packing activity remains concentrated in key regions, with Senwes, Patensie, and the Boland currently accounting for the bulk of volumes still to be harvested.

Regions that have recorded the most significant upward revisions in their projections include Letsitele in Limpopo and the Sunday's River Valley in the Eastern Cape.

Despite higher overall volumes, the updated forecast indicates a shift in the seasonal profile. The lemon season is expected to conclude more abruptly than usual, with a noticeable drop in volume around mid-July, rather than a gradual tapering.

The CGA also confirms that fruit quality for the season remains excellent, reinforcing South Africa's reputation as a reliable supplier of high-quality citrus to international markets.



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