

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (14/17)

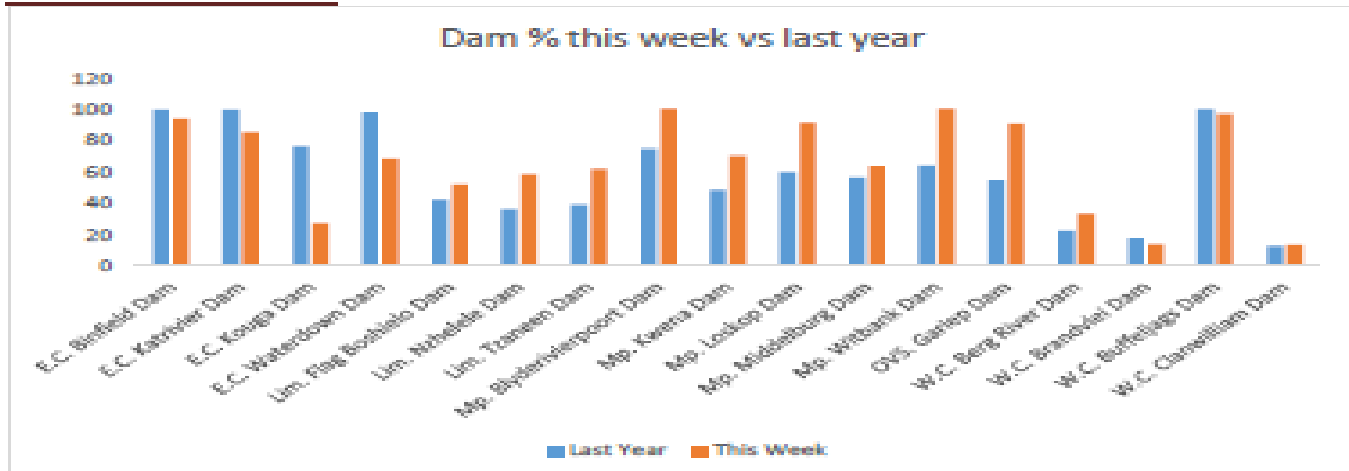
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Justin Chadwick 21 April 2017



“Before I refuse to take your question. I have an opening statement” Ronald Reagan

CLIMATIC CONDITIONS



John Edmonds (CGA Information Manager) prepares a weekly report on dam levels and rainfall in citrus growing regions. If you would like to be on his distribution list please mail johned@cga.co.za.

This last week's information shows the stark contrast between the Cape provinces (lower levels than same time in 2016) and provinces in the north (Limpopo and Mpumalanga reflecting higher levels).

As we enter autumn this is good news for the summer rainfall regions in the north – while the southern winter rainfall regions are in dire need of early rains.

AgBIZ have warned of a possible El Nino effect in summer of 2017. Their latest newsletter reported as follows: *The Climate Prediction Center/NCEP/NWS and the International Research Institute for Climate and Society issued their latest ENSO Advisory on 13 April 2017. ENSO-neutral conditions are favoured to continue through at least the Southern Hemisphere autumn of 2017, with increasing chances for El Niño development by late winter and spring. ENSO-neutral conditions continued during March, with near-average sea surface temperatures (SSTs) across the central equatorial Pacific and above-average SSTs in the eastern Pacific. The upper-ocean heat content anomaly, averaged across the central and eastern Pacific, decreased to near zero during March, a reflection of above-average temperatures at depth in the east offset by below-average temperatures in the central Pacific. Atmospheric convection remained suppressed over the central tropical Pacific and enhanced over the Maritime Continent. Overall, the ocean and atmosphere system is consistent with ENSO-neutral conditions.*

PACKED AND SHIPPED

The **soft citrus** focus group held a meeting on 13/4 with 60% of Satsuma's already **packed**. The 1.2 million cartons packed to date mirrors that of 2015; but is appreciably less than 2016 (1.6 m). Although the Eastern Cape reduced their estimates slightly the overall satsuma estimate remains at 2 million 15 Kg cartons. Clementine, mandarin and nova estimates remained unchanged – leaving the soft citrus prediction at 13.2 million cartons. Soft citrus **shipped** has hit the 1 million carton mark – with three dominant destinations; UK 49% (2016 34%), Europe 27% (2016 31%) and Russia 21% (2016 7%).

Lemon packing at 2.8 million 15 Kg cartons is well ahead of 2016 (2.2 m) and 2015 (1.4 m).

Lemon shipping: once again three destinations dominate; Middle East 55% (2016 43%), South East Asia 21% (2016 13%) and Russia 19% (2016 6%). This is at the expense of Europe (2016 23%) and UK (2016 9%) which received nothing in 2017 due to the risk associated with the technically unjustified EU plant health measures. **Grapefruit packed** at 0.8 million is also ahead of 2016 (0.4 m) and 2015 (0.3 m). Very little grapefruit has been shipped to date.

THE CGA GROUP OF COMPANIES (CRI, RIVER BIOSCIENCE, XSIT, CGA CULTIVAR COMPANY, CGA GROWER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY & CITRUS ACADEMY) ARE FUNDED BY SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS GROWERS