

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (33/17)

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“Marriage is a great institution, but I am not ready for an institution yet” Mae West

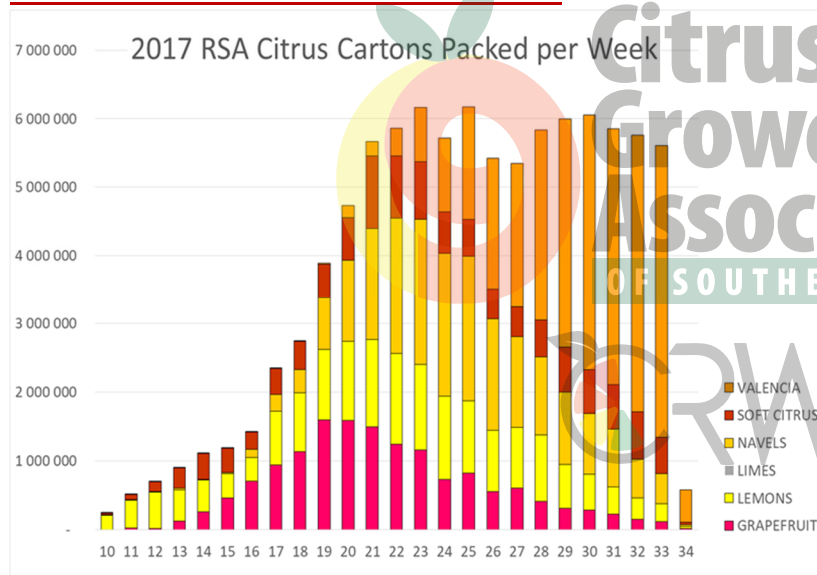
CITRUS GROWERS' ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

At the beginning of 2016, of the five CGA Executive Committee members, four were bachelors. This last weekend the sole survivor (Fanie Meyer) joined the other three in tying the knot – congratulations to Fanie and Ronelle. There is a message – if you are single and want to change your status make yourself available for the CGA Executive Committee!

GOOD PICKINGS AT THE CITRUS ACADEMY

Attracting the right staff and retaining their services are continuous challenges in this environment of instant messaging and complete transparency. Writings on the subject indicate that people change jobs far more frequently than they did in the past – the era of a “job for life” is past. We all know how tedious the process of making staff placements is – the long process of advertising, screening, interviews, notice period and final employment administration are what goes through your mind when faced with a vacancy, resignation or retirement. Within the citrus industry we have an “in house” service provider who can save you a lot of hassles. Although the Citrus Academy is not an employment agency – they can assist a lot in finding that elusive staff member. Their latest “Pick Me!” newsletter (and website) has a number of good leads. But why not be proactive in your staffing portfolio – take on some of the students as interns, or during their vacations. In so doing you will build up an understanding of who is available, and a relationship that may assist in the future.

SOUTHERN AFRICAN PACKING CAPACITY



An industry commentator made an interesting observation – that exporters in southern Africa will pack to the level of the industry packing capacity. All costs become fixed once the season starts; packers will ensure that product is packed regardless of the status of the fruit or the market. While this may be a broad and controversial view – it does beg the question as to what that capacity is. John Edmonds (CGA Information Manager) mined the data and produced this graph – in essence southern Africa (Swaziland, Zimbabwe and South Africa) has the capacity to pack 6 million cartons a week.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

Surprisingly the Valencia Focus Group increased their predicted export volume this week, as did the soft citrus focus group. Navels were also adjusted upwards as packing slowly comes to an end.

To End Week 34 Million 15 Kg Cartons SOURCE: PPECB/AGRIHUB	Packed 2015	Packed 2016	Packed 2017	Shipped 2016	Shipped 2017	Original Estimate 2017	Latest Prediction 2017	Final Packed 2016
Grapefruit	15.9 m	13.2 m	15.5 m	12.6 m	14.1 m	15.6 m	15.7 m	13.2 m
Soft Citrus	9.3 m	11.6 m	12.5 m	10.2 m	11.4 m	13.2 m	13.8 m	12.2 m
Lemons	14.2 m	14.3 m	18.2 m	13.7 m	17.5 m	17.5 m	18.7 m	15 m
Navels	24 m	25.8 m	20.7 m	24.3 m	20.2 m	26.3 m	21 m	26.2 m
Valencia	32 m	30.6 m	36.8 m	21.7 m	26 m	50.1 m	49 m	41.8 m
Total	95.4 m	95.5 m	103.7 m	82.5 m	89.2 m	122.7 m	118.2 m	108.4 m

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