

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO

*"Coming together is a beginning;
keeping together is progress;
working together is success."
(Edward Everett Hale)*

PARTNERSHIPS A NECESSITY FOR SUCCESS

The 2025 citrus export season of 204 million 15kg cartons also saw South Africa narrowly overtake Spain as the world's largest citrus exporter by volume. It is a remarkable achievement and a testament to the hard work of growers and their workers, government, Transnet, and the entire logistics supply chain in driving efficiencies. Government played a significant role in securing markets for the industry, while Transnet and other stakeholders ensured a steady flow through the ports to destinations around the world.

In short, this reflects the value created through partnerships and, in many respects, confirms that, over the long term, we are maintaining course and a growth trajectory in line with the potential of Vision 260. South Africa has long been the second-largest exporter after Spain and the largest in the Southern Hemisphere. This ensures complementarity and continuity of citrus supply to Northern Hemisphere markets during their off-season, keeping consumers there supplied with citrus year-round and benefiting from its nutritional value. This, too, is a partnership built on supporting citrus as a fruit of choice for consumers.

Looking at the current season: the 2026 season estimate has now been updated to include late mandarins, showing that the citrus industry has 209 million 15kg cartons available for export. This confirms the upward trend but again calls for stronger partnerships as headwinds such as the war in the Middle East and its effects pose serious challenges as the season gathers momentum.

Mother nature has also supplied serious challenges, with incessant rain affecting picking and packing. The recent rains and flooding in the Eastern and Western Cape have, however, created a far more concerning situation, which led government declaring a state of disaster. As growers and their teams partner with government and other stakeholders to restore some sense of normalcy, and as growers and farming communities resume the task of producing food for South Africans, we spare a thought for those affected, and for those who lost their lives, and we ask that you do the same in this time of need.

Our citrus growers in the Gamtoos Valley were especially hard hit. They have our full support during this time. It will require even stronger partnerships to return to some semblance of normal life. As a people and as an industry, we have faced challenges before, and we have repeatedly risen to show that we are equal to the challenges before us.

INDUSTRY STATISTICS

The 2026 Industry Statistics booklet is now available. Stakeholders can find the digital version on the CGA website. For any questions, please contact albert@cga.co.za or portia@cga.co.za.

ONLINE DASHBOARD

Stakeholders are reminded that access to the CGA dashboards has been made available to exporters. These dashboards provide information on inspected volumes, exports, and markets. For access, please contact albert@cga.co.za.

PACKED AND SHIPPED VOLUMES

End of week 19 million 15 kg cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed	Vision 260
SOURCE: PPECB/AGRIHUB	2024	2025	2026	2025	2026	2026	2026	2025	2026
Grapefruit	6.4 m	6.3 m	6.2 m	4.4 m	3.8 m	17.8 m	17.8 m	15.3 m	15.5 m
Lemons	11.4 m	11.4 m	16.3 m	9.4 m	11.7 m	45.9 m	46 m	41.6 m	43.4 m
Mandarins	6.1 m	4.4 m	7.5 m	2.9 m	3.1 m	52.7 m	52.7 m	53.5 m	50 m
Navels	1.3 m	0.5 m	1 m	0.2 m	0.1 m	30 m	30 m	31.6 m	32.3 m
Valencia	-	-	-	-	-	63 m	63 m	62 m	67.8 m
Total	25.2 m	22.6 m	31 m	16.9 m	18.7 m	209.4 m	209.5 m	204 m	209 m