

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO

"The sun himself is weak when he first rises and gathers strength and courage as the day gets on."
(Charles Dickens)

LIMPOPO INFORMATION DAY

This week I was fortunate enough to spend time with growers attending a joint Grower Development Company/Department of Agriculture information day in Buysdorp, Limpopo. The day had compliance as a theme and covered several related topics, such as biosecurity, environmental concerns, as well as labour and social issues. Other subjects covered included the funding of the expansion of citrus.

Our sincere thanks and gratitude to the organisers and stakeholders who were part of the events of the day. From a biosecurity point of view the province is a frontier area, as it borders Zimbabwe and Mozambique. This message was delivered succinctly by the Citrus Research International extension officer servicing the area, and River Bioscience also presented on new pest control strategies. In this regard, the growers were also exposed to the top biosecurity threats that the industry faces, and one hopes that this message remains well received. Messages on protecting our industry from external pests and diseases that could potentially enter our country from up north should be reinforced.

Limpopo has about 47 black growers of which about half participate in exports. These exporting growers are also aware of the need for compliance with standards that enable access to shelf space in overseas markets. That compliance should not be seen as burdensome, but rather as the entry ticket to markets elsewhere in the world. We must continue to give consumers the assurance that citrus fruit produced in South Africa meets the highest of standards.

It was also heartening to hear, while talking to the growers, about the value of mentorship and the attendance of study groups and information days in cementing their knowledge base and supporting their growth. Despite the sometimes mixed feedback one hears around the Enterprise Development Funding, the feedback was positive here. This shows how important the Grower Development Company's work is and that it aligns with the CGA's transformation strategy to ensure that we back citrus enterprises that have the greatest potential of succeeding. In my view, Limpopo seems to have a solid foundation in this regard, and, with the right level of support, there are businesses that can make a meaningful contribution to industry growth.

UNUSUAL VALENCIA SEASON

As we have moved into peak Valencia season, growers are urged to continue monitoring the markets they are shipping to - particularly Europe - very closely. This has been an unusual season on several fronts. Given the combined pressures of climate events, conflicts and varying consumption, we encourage growers to stay closely engaged with market intelligence and their exporters when making shipping decisions.

PACKED AND SHIPPED VOLUMES

End of week 35 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	14.2 m	15 m	15 m	14.6 m	14.3 m	17.8 m	16.1 m	15.3 m	15.5 m
Lemons	34.1 m	39.9 m	49.8 m	38.4 m	46.9 m	45.9 m	50.2 m	41.6 m	43.4 m
Mandarins	39.6 m	47.7 m	47.2 m	42.7 m	42.5 m	52.7 m	49.3 m	53.5 m	50 m
Navels	24.1 m	30.4 m	23.8 m	27.9 m	22.3 m	30 m	24.3 m	31.6 m	32.3 m
Valencia	36.6 m	47 m	41.4 m	37 m	30.7 m	63 m	56.6 m	62 m	67.8 m
Total	148.6 m	180 m	177.2 m	160.6 m	156.7 m	209.4 m	196.5 m	204 m	209 m

*Grapefruit Packed Distribution: Class 1 & 2 volumes remained relatively stable at 12.2 m cartons (2026) vs 13.2 m (2025) and 12.8 m (2024), while PP volumes increased to 2.8 m cartons from 1.8 m (2025) and 1.4 m (2024).

INTERESTING FACTS

Limpopo led with new plantings in 2025. Last year this province planted just over 400 new hectares of citrus orchards. Citrus is a key job-provider as well as an economic engine for South Africa's northern most province

For the latest South African citrus packed and shipped volumes, please visit the CGA website:
[Stats 01 – Shipping & Cold Stores](#)
[Stock Statistics Dashboard | CGA](#)

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