

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (28/21)

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Justin Chadwick 30 July 2021



“Coronavirus has made the mighty kneel and brought the world to a halt like nothing else could. Our minds are still racing back and forth, longing for a return to “normality,” trying to stitch our future to our past and refusing to acknowledge the rupture. But the rupture exists. And in the midst of this terrible despair, it offers us a chance to rethin the doomsday machine we have built for ourselves. Nothing could be worse than a return to normality. Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next. We can choose to walk through it, dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data banks and dead ideas, our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world. And ready to fight for it.” Arundhati Roy

CRI RESEARCH FEEDBACK 2021

Due to the postponement of CRI’s Citrus Research Symposium to August 2022 for the second year in a row, it was decided that we will present a condensed version of the last two years research conducted and present it electronically to the grower industry.

Growers will be able to register and download these presentations from the 2nd of August 2021. A week after the presentation downloads we will be hosting a live Q & A session to answer any questions you might have.

Registrations for these presentations are R500.00 per device.

Please visit our events site to register, <https://events.citrusres.com/product/cris-symposium-2021-registration/>

TRANSNET CYBERATTACK

The Citrus Growers’ Association of Southern Africa (CGA) is in close contact with Transnet on the unprecedented cyber-attack which has disabled electronic systems and disrupted container terminals in all South African ports over the past week. Meetings are held at 10h00 daily with all stakeholders.

Transnet worked around the clock to get the full IT system back online, with full restoration reported by Thursday morning. While the repairs were being carried out, manual systems were used to shift cargo, which slowed down operations at the ports. However, citrus being shipped via break bulk vessels were not impacted due to this fruit being serviced by private terminals in domestic ports.

As a result, there is currently a backlog of fruit across the citrus supply chain causing temporary delays when it comes to fruit being exported to key markets. Exporters using Durban port must be aware that there is considerable congestion in the port – cold stores are blocked out and the situation will take some time to normalise. Exporters should only send fruit to port after ensuring that there is space to accommodate such fruit. There are hundreds of trucks now parked around the port precinct.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

Please note that investigations have revealed that the conversion from actual cartons packed to 15Kg equivalents has been incorrect. This has now been corrected. This has a marked impact on the volume of soft citrus reported as packed due to the many different cartons utilized in that sector. In addition, shipped figures this week must be treated with caution as the IT problems at Transnet does impact on this data.

End of Week 29 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB/AGRIHUB	2019	2020	2021	2020	2021	2021	2021	2020
Grapefruit (17kg)			13.6 m		12 m			
Grapefruit	15.2 m	13.5 m	15.4 m	12 m	13.6 m	18 m	17.2 m	15.5 m
Soft Citrus	12.5 m	15.8 m	19.4 m	13 m	15.3 m	30.5 m	30.1 m	23.6 m
Lemons	17.5 m	23.3 m	24.6 m	20 m	21.6 m	30.2 m	26.9 m	29.6 m
Navels	18.1 m	20.4 m	20.8 m	16.5 m	16.5 m	26.3 m	24.7 m	26.2 m
Valencia	10.7 m	14 m	14 m	7.4 m	8.6 m	58 m	56.4 m	55.1 m
Total	74 m	87 m	94.2 m	68.9 m	75.6 m	163 m	155.3 m	150 m

THE CGA GROUP (CRI, RIVER BIOSCIENCE, XSIT, CGA CULTIVAR COMPANY, CGA GROWER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY & CITRUS ACADEMY) ARE SUPPORTED BY AND WORK FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS GROWERS