

“Life’s biggest tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late” Liam Neeson

SOUTH AFRICAN CITRUS CARBON FOOTPRINT (Albert Coetzee)

The CGA receives an annual report on our Carbon Footprint from Confronting Climate Change, an internationally recognised carbon footprinting initiative based in South Africa. The citrus industry has been part of this initiative since 2011, and understanding and measuring our carbon footprint remains crucial in our pursuit of true sustainability.

The information represents 34% of the South African citrus industry and includes data from farm, pack house, and cold store operations. All results are presented in the internationally accepted format of kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent per kilogram of fruit (kg CO₂e/kg fruit).

Business Boundary	Soft citrus (kg CO ₂ e/kg fruit)	Hard citrus (kg CO ₂ e/kg fruit)
Farm	0.24	0.19
Pack house	0.11	0.13
Cold store	0.21	0.22

On a farm level, we have observed a consistent decline in the carbon footprint of both soft and hard citrus varieties since 2011. This decrease can be attributed to factors such as fertiliser, electricity, and fuel. The shift in irrigation techniques has led to a reduction in fertiliser usage which contributed to the decline in carbon footprint. The increasing adoption of solar power systems is expected to further decrease these costs. We have also observed a consistent decrease in our carbon footprint for hard citrus at the pack house level. However, there has been a slight increase in carbon footprint for soft citrus. This change is attributed to the increased usage of cardboard in packaging and the growing use of specialised packaging for soft citrus, where fewer kilogrammes of fruit are packed per kilogram of cardboard used.

Since 2011, there has been a slight increase in CO₂ emissions at cold stores, largely due to electricity usage and refrigerant leakage. Recent studies have also revealed that the cooling protocols for phytosanitary purposes have led to a 24% increase in our Carbon Footprint in specific markets. We encourage growers to make use of this tool in our pursuit of true sustainability.

For more information, please email albert@cga.co.za, or visit <https://www.climatefruitandwine.co.za/>

PACKED AND SHIPPED

End of Week 26 Million 15 kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed	Vision 260
SOURCE: PPECB/AGRIHUB	2022	2023	2024	2023	2024	2024	2024	2023	2024
Grapefruit	14.4 m	11.2 m	11.8 m	9.8 m	10.4 m	16.8 m	14.5 m	14.7 m	16.2 m
Mandarins	15.4 m	18 m	17.8 m	14.1 m	13.8 m	43 m	42.7 m	38.0 m	39.6 m
Lemons	23.6 m	26.8 m	24.4 m	22 m	19.9 m	37.9 m	35.8 m	35.6 m	39 m
Navels	15.7 m	14 m	12.7 m	9.1 m	9.4 m	25.7 m	21.8 m	24.8 m	22.3 m
Valencias	4.9 m	6.6 m	5.2 m	3.2 m	2.4 m	58.3 m	55 m	52 m	55.4 m
Total	74.0 m	76.6 m	71.9 m	58.2 m	55.9 m	181.7m	169.8 m	165.1 m	172.5 m