

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (28/17)

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“If the only tool that you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail” Abraham Maslow

INTERCEPTIONS OF HARMFUL ORGANISMS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Every month the EU publishes on their plant health website a list of interceptions for non-compliance with import requirements. Recently they published a report covering 2016 results. Here are the main element of the statement by the European Commission upon release of the report (summarised by Freshfel):

- *The Commission’s latest annual report on the operation of the system in 2016, shows that the number of interceptions made due to the presence of harmful organisms was 1,815, a reduction of 15% compared to 2015. This reflects a continuing downward trend since 2014, with an overall reduction of 25% over the period.*
- *Following a range of Commission actions in relation to countries exporting to the EU (bi-lateral dialogue, plant health audits and other targeted measures), interceptions of consignments of some non-EU country commodities (such as Capsicum, Citrus, Solanum and Luffa spp.) showed a marked decrease in 2016.*
- *Thirteen non-EU countries were responsible for the majority of interceptions of during 2016, each having more than 50 interceptions. The main non-EU country commodities intercepted due to the presence of harmful organisms were fruit and vegetables (particularly peppers, mango, basil, citrus and various gourds), Wood Packaging Material (WPM), cut flowers and planting material.*
- *In addition to its function as a rapid alert system, EUROPHYT-Interceptions is an effective policy support tool for risk assessment and risk management. Based on EUROPHYT data, a Non-EU trade Alert List is published each month on the Commission’s Health and Food Safety website. This list is intended to draw the attention of the relevant plant health authorities and other stakeholders to certain trades, for which the EU Member States have identified frequent phytosanitary risks, as a first step in having these risks addressed at source.*

PACKED AND SHIPPED

With almost all grapefruit now packed, and 80% already shipped it is interesting to look back at the position ten years ago. In 2006 southern Africa packed 69% pigmented grapefruit. Reacting to consumer demand growers replaced white grapefruit orchards with pigmented grapefruit – the ratio is now 90% pigmented to 10% white. Grapefruit exports have risen from 9.5 million cartons to 14.8 million cartons (15 Kg) – a modest increase (56%) when compared to other sectors of the citrus industry. Asia was the dominant market back in 2006 – at 40%; mostly accounted for by Japan. Ten years later Asia is now second at 34%, with South Korea joining Japan as important markets in the region. The European Union (excluding UK) now receives 45% of product – up from 38% in 2006. The UK has lost some appetite for grapefruit – dropping from 12% to 6%. With Asia and EU receiving the bulk of grapefruit exports (83%) the other regions are bit players – Russia has increased from 4 to 8%, North America from 3 to 5% and Middle east from 1 to 3%. Africa remains at 1%.

To End Week 28 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB/AGRIHUB	2015	2016	2017	2016	2017	2017	2017	2016
Grapefruit	14.3 m	12.8 m	14.6 m	10.8 m	11.5 m	15.6 m	15.5 m	13.2 m
Soft Citrus	7.3 m	9.3 m	9.4 m	7.9 m	8.5 m	13.2 m	13.6 m	12.2 m
Lemons	12.4 m	12.8 m	16.4 m	11.8 m	14.8 m	17.5 m	16.6 m	15 m
Navels	19.5 m	22.1 m	17.8 m	19.3 m	16 m	26.3 m	20 m	26.2 m
Valencia	12.7 m	13.4 m	16.3 m	8.3 m	8.8 m	50.1 m	48.5 m	41.8 m
Total	66.3 m	70.4 m	74.5 m	58.2 m	59.6 m	122.7 m	114.1 m	108.4 m

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