

“Part of the secret of success in life is to eat what you like and let the food fight it out inside” Mark Twain

ASIAN CITRUS GREENING DISEASE: A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE CITRUS INDUSTRY

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development is alerting citrus farmers regarding Asian citrus greening disease. The disease is caused by the pathogen *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*, which is insect vector-transmitted by the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP), *Diaphorina citri* and it poses a huge threat to all citrus industries in the world. Symptoms on leaves and shoots include yellow shoots, asymmetric, mottled leaves, small upright chlorotic leaves, out-of-phase flushing and branch dieback. Flower and fruit symptoms include unseasonal and heavy flowering on diseased branches, small, lopsided, bitter-tasting fruit with small, brown, aborted seeds and uneven colouring at maturity and excessive fruit drop. The sooty mould growth resulting from excess honeydew production can also affect the plants' ability to photosynthesise, which can affect overall plant health.

Industry (through the CRI, CGA and SACNA), along with relevant government departments and organisations, is part of a HLB Steering Committee. This Committee is addressing an action plan, communication strategy, and other actions necessary to ensure early warning, containment and control. For copies of the full media release please mail gloria@cga.co.za

LOGISTICS – BE READY

Citrus industry stakeholders in southern Africa are carefully watching developments in the table grape industry, especially with regard to logistics. Reports of significant vessel delays, shortage of containers, congestion and poor productivity in Cape Town port are particularly worrying. Mitchell Brooke is engaging with all parties to plan for a successful 2021 citrus season. On Wednesday next week (17 March 2021) the Citrus Marketing Forum (CMF) will meet, and the 2021 export crop estimate will be discussed and released. This will then give substance to these discussions

CITRUS MARKETING FORUM (CMF)

As mentioned above the CMF meets “virtually” on Wednesday 17 March 2021 at 09h30.

The agenda includes discussion on the export crop estimate for 2021, and some perspectives on the markets for the forthcoming 2021 season

All CGA, FPEF and CMF members should have received an agenda, meeting ID and passcode. If you need more information please contact Werner van Rooyen werner@fpf.co.za.

WEEKLY STATISTICS

Brazil dominates the orange sector, with the vast majority produced for processing.

The orange production leader board looks like this; 1. Brazil (17 million tonnes); 2. China (7,2 million); 3. EU (6,4 million); 4. USA (4,6 million); 5. Mexico (4,2 million); 6. Egypt (3,2 million); 7. Turkey (1,7 million); 8. South Africa (1,5 million).

The orange export leader board looks like this: 1. Egypt (1,5 million tonnes); 2. South Africa (1,2 million); 3. USA (540 000); 4. Turkey (350 000); 5. EU (310 000).

Source: USDA FAS: Average 2015/16 to 2020/21