



GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (24/2009)

John Edmonds (26 June 2009)

Exchange Rate at 10:20 R/\$ 7.99 R/€ 11.22 R/£ 13.16

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

EU citrus trade balance worsens

According to data published by the USDA, European countries imported 1.66m MT more fresh oranges, soft citrus, grapefruit and lemons than it exported last season.

[Reefer Trends; 23 June 2009]

Mood downbeat among SA citrus exporters

Despite widespread recognition that fruit quality to date has been good, pricing levels in most markets are reported to be 'unfavorable'

[Reefer Trends; 22 June 2009]

Chile – Less Orange Exports This Season

19 June 2009 – The high-yielding orange season in 2008 will undoubtedly have an effect on the volumes to be harvested during the current 2009 season. Due to the orchard's bi-annual production, 15-20% less volume is expected from the total Chilean crop. In addition to the harvest delay which occurred last year, as a result of the complex export situation, was also a problem with the blossom that created the fruit for 2009 season.

[Freshfel; 19 June 2009]

Australia – Citrus Australia Welcomes Trade Improvements with China

16 June 2009 – Citrus Australia Ltd, the national peak industry body representing citrus growers, today welcomed the signing of the improved China quarantine protocol. Citrus Australia has worked diligently with the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to improve the quarantine conditions for trade. There is a list of agreed priority items between industry and government used in the official negotiations. Citrus Australia CEO Judith Damiani stated that the major wins with the amended protocol include the acceptance of higher cold treatment (2.1 °C for 21 days for fruit flies), access to all ports, and access for additional citrus varieties e.g. tangelos, sweet grapefruit and limes.

[Freshfel; 16 June 2009]

US: FL: So Gardens Plants 1st Commercial Field Trials of Resistant Citrus Trees

One of the field trial trees planted at Southern Gardens Citrus Southern Gardens Citrus has planted the first research field trials of potential canker and greening disease-resistant citrus trees in its Hendry County citrus groves. The trees, noted to be resistant to canker and greening in the lab, were planted in small plots to determine if the trees are disease resistant under commercial grove conditions.

"These field trials are an important milestone both in our own proactive program dealing with disease and in the industry-wide efforts to save Florida citrus," said Rick Kress, president, Southern Gardens Citrus. Kress said the citrus trees produced using biotechnology are the result of research initiated in early 2007 with Texas A&M AgriLife Research. After the plants showed promising results in the laboratory, Southern Gardens secured a field trial permit from the United States Department of Agriculture Biotechnology Bioregulatory Services.

[FreshPlaza; 23 June 2009]

Brazilian citrus production to fall

The Brazilian citrus crop for marketing year 2009/10 is expected to fall from the previous year as a result of adverse weather conditions and a reduction in investment in crop management, according to a new report from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA forecast has pegged the 2009/10 crop to come in at 407m 40.8kg boxes (Mbx), (16,6 Mt) down from 413Mbx (16,9Mt) in 2008/09 and a considerable fall from the 453Mbx (18,5Mt) recorded in 2007/08. Projected falls in production are attributed to poor weather during the blossoming and fruit development periods and "below average" crop management. Meanwhile, increased production costs and low prices for fruit delivered to processors during the off-season have created more uncertainty among producers over the profitability of remaining in business, according to the USDA. Exports are expected to remain steady during 2009/10 at 1Mbx (40 800 t), according to the Brazilian Department of Foreign Trade, with the Netherlands again set to be the leading importer of the country's fresh oranges.

[Fruitnet.com; 24 June 2009]

Citrus prices on FreshPlaza.com and AGF.nl

Please click on the link below to display these prices which are average Free on Truck prices in Euros recorded in the Dutch fresh produce market and can be taken as an indication for the European situation.

http://www.freshplaza.com/price-watch/archief/2009/citrus_week24-09.pdf

If you need more information on any of these issues, or if there is anything else that CGA can assist with, please contact us at 031 7652514, or johne@cga.co.za

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