



GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (30/2009)

John Edmonds (14 August 2009)

Exchange Rate at 13:30 R/\$ 8.06 R/€ 11.52 R/£ 13.34

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Soccer players to re-energize with South African oranges

Anyone who's been involved in kids' soccer knows that at each game, one parent is responsible for bringing oranges for the players to munch on during halftime. This year, the Citrusdal, South Africa-based Western Cape Citrus Producers Forum is taking on that role for the U.S. Youth Soccer National Championships. The group plans to supply more than 2,000 South African oranges to players during the five-day tournament July 22-26. But players won't be the only benefactors — spectators will have access to more than 10,000 more oranges. The tournament, in Lancaster, Ma., brings 60 teams from around the U.S. Those teams won the first two rounds of the league's state and regional tournaments, pared down from more than 10,000 teams. Packer said the Western Cape association will have a South African Summer Citrus booth set up at the event. In the past decade, imports of South African citrus have increased from 500 tons in 1999 to an average of 40,000 tons, according to the forum.

[thepacker.com; 16 July 2009]

Hard outlook for China's pomelo deal

Oversupply of European markets could again be a problem this year for Chinese pomelos, with an increase in volumes and good quality. China's pomelo season took off at the beginning of this month, around three weeks earlier than last year, with positive crop forecasts not mirrored by export expectations. The total volume of the pomelo harvest is expected to be 30 per cent higher than 2008, according to industry sources, with good quality but smaller fruit sizing peaking around size 10. Domestic pomelo demand is still strong in both north and south China, said Mr Su, but based on early-season sales, he expects the European market will again be oversupplied with Chinese pomelos, "There's no more room for growth in Western Europe. Eastern Europe is taking quite a bit of volume, though, and I feel that will increase over the next few years."

[Fruitnet.com; 12 August 2009]

Mandarins gain Australian access

Japanese unshu mandarins have been granted access to Australia following an import risk analysis. Biosecurity Australia has granted access to fresh Japanese unshu mandarins from four designated areas in Shizuoka Prefecture. The imported fruit will be subject to quarantine requirements as recommended in an import risk analysis (IRA) released earlier this month by the quarantine agency. The IRA focused particularly on area freedom and management of citrus canker, Japanese orange fruit fly and citrus scab, among other pests. Citrus canker management requirements involve copper sprays, area surveys, inspections and post-harvest chemical treatment.

[Fruitnet.com; 13 August 2009]

Spain: Company develops novel citrus peel-to-ethanol process

Spain-based process technology provider HRS Spiratube has announced the development of a new process for the continuous thermal pretreatment of citrus peels to produce ethanol. The technique, which can be used to convert half of the peel's organic matter into ethanol, was developed through a research collaboration with the University of Cartagena. The company intends to use the technology in a commercial-scale citrus peel-to-ethanol facility in the Murcia region of Spain by 2010.

[ethanolproducer.com; 18 August 2009]

Easy-peel oranges back on the menu

Citrus supplier MMG has announced that it has launched its easy peel Navel orange onto the UK market one month earlier than in 2008 to cater for demand generated by last year's sales. With the option to peel the fruit without creating a mess, MMG said that it hopes to re-establish the orange as a lunchtime snack. Oranges now make up just 27 per cent of the UK's citrus category, compared with 73 per cent in 1999, although the overall citrus market has grown 69 per cent over the past 10 years.

[Fruitnet.com; 24 July 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_week30-09.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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