



GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (31/2009)

John Edmonds (21 August 2009)

Exchange Rate at 09:00 R/\$ 7.97 R/€ 11.33 R/£ 13.11

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Lemon prices spiral

The tightening in supply of lemons foreseen by freshinfo in July is coming to pass as the effects of frost in Argentina make themselves felt. On New Covent Garden Market this week, prices ran up to 1815p for 18kg for product from Argentina. Drought in the major growing area of Tucumán in western Argentina, as well as dry conditions in South African growing areas, led to an abundance of small sizes from the outset of the season. One importer said: "We always knew there was going to be less fruit from Argentina and Uruguay this year because of the small sizes. But frost last month in Tucumán affected volumes, so there is even less fruit." The issues are further compounded by issues with summer lemons from Spain. Respite is expected to come finally when new-season Turkish supplies come on stream in the third week of next month.

[Freshinfo.com; 18 August 2009]

UK: Mini lemons that can squeeze into a G&T.

Marks & Spencer, which is selling the baby-sized fruits, claims they will be a boon to gin and tonic drinkers fed up of throwing away dried-out half lemons that languish in their fridges. The smaller size – they measure no more than 1.5 inches wide – also means they create the perfect slice, which can be popped into a tumbler without it getting jammed, a problem that often occurs when normal-sized lemons are used.

Scientists at the University of Tokyo last month claimed that a gin and tonic, with a slice of lemon, really did relax people after a stressful day at the office, thanks to the soothing effect of the citrus fruit.

Linalool, sometimes also called linalyl alcohol, a compound found in the smell of plants and fruits including lemons, brought down the raised levels of genes and white blood cells in tests. This means the smell of the fruit helps the body fight depression and reduces stress. The baby lemons, which are grown in South Africa, will cost £1 for a pack of four, compared with a single, large lemon, which costs 35p at M&S.

[telegraph.co.uk; 17 August 2009]

Spain – Murcia to Reduce Citrus Production

The agrarian professional organisation Asaja Murcia, has estimated that at least a 30% of citrus producers in the region of Murcia will abandon their production for lack of profitability in the next two years. The lack of order in supply and proper promotion are two of the challenges that will have to be faced.

[Freshfel; 15 August 2009]

Spain – Citrus Production to Fall By 25%

All the agrarian organisations in Valencia agree that citrus production will fall around 20 to 25% this coming campaign compared to the previous one, with a provable fall of prices in origin. The fall will affect more oranges (more than 30%) than mandarins. If this forecast is correct, production should stand at 3.2 million tons, as was the case two years ago.

[Freshfel; 14 August 2009]

California citrus industry honors canine sleuth 08/19/2009 06:49pm By Don Schrack

FRESNO, Calif. – As a token of its appreciation, members of the California citrus industry presented a basket of treats and chew toys to Chelsea, the dog who discovered a package containing curry leaves and Asian citrus psyllids.

[The Packer; 18 August 2009]

Spain – Citrus Menacing Plants in Valencia

According to the Valencian association of farmers (AVA), there is a quick expansion of a plant called miraguano („Araujia sericifera“) which grows in citrus fields reaching up to 8 meters high and very difficult to eradicate. This could put in danger the viability of the farms.

[Freshfel; 13 August 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_week34-09.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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