



GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (32/2009)

John Edmonds (28 August 2009)

Exchange Rate at 13:12 R/\$ 7.77 R/€ 11.15 R/£ 12.68

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

UK: Lemon supply hit by Argentinian frosts

Retailers are having to absorb lower margins on lemons after frost hit the Argentinian crop. The South American country's lemon exports to the UK were only half last year's 6,000 punnets, according to Manuela Leyba, regional export manager for producer San Miguel. Frosts hit the Tucumán growing region, compounding an already depleted crop. Exporters had asked European supermarkets for higher prices, with the German hard discounters doubling shelf prices. Discussions had also been held with UK retailers, but according to The Grocer 33 index prices are so far unchanged. Supplies are expected to remain tight until new season Turkish and Cypriot fruit arrives in the UK in September. Meanwhile M&S has launched a South African Baby Lemon, said to be the smallest sold at UK retail.

[thegrocer.co.uk; 24 August 2009]

NZ: Biosecurity basics on citrus

The importance of biosecurity was highlighted to citrus growers at the New Zealand Citrus Growers Association annual meeting. Australian citrus expert Pat Barkley spoke about two major diseases affecting citrus worldwide and some golden rules for growers. The experience of a citrus canker outbreak in an area of Queensland provided some valuable lessons, she said. "Many hundreds of thousands of trees were pulled out; everything from orchards to backyard trees and native citrus. It was a major exercise, but it worked." At a cost of \$18 million to the government, the outbreak was declared eradicated about four years ago.

[gisborneherald.co.nz; 26 August 2009]

Florida citrus volumes down

Florida's citrus crop could see a significant drop in volume next season but the brunt of the shortfall will be borne by the processed market.

[Freshinfo; 25 August 2009]

Californian Lemon volumes drop off after heavy season

FRESNO, Calif. — After a year of heavy volumes, California growers expect a lighter season for lemons. Though an official crop estimate is not available yet for lemons, Joel Nelsen, president of California Citrus Mutual, Exeter, said lighter crops usually follow years with heavier volumes. Lemon harvesting will begin in October in the San Joaquin Valley and move to the Coachella Valley, returning in early spring to the coastal regions in Ventura County. Jeff Olsen, vice president of The Chuck Olsen Co., Visalia, said while it is too early to predict volume the crop is looking good so far and will start packing lemons in September through the end of the year. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, f.o.b.s for 75s of lemons from California sold for \$31.48-32.98 on Aug. 10. Prices for other packs of lemons sold for \$17.48-35.50.

[[The Packer](http://ThePacker); 24 August 2009]

Citrus psyllid found in Los Angeles 27 August 2009

California agriculture authorities say a potentially devastating citrus pest has now been found in Los Angeles, farther north in the state than ever before.

[ReeferTrends; 27 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_week35-09.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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