



GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (33/2009)

John Edmonds (4 September 2009)

Exchange Rate at 11:30 R/\$ 7.68 R/€ 10.98 R/£ 12.58

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

South Africa - Plans To Speed Up Registration Of Chemicals Won't Yield Quick Results.

Various initiatives are being put into place to address alarming delays in the registration process of agricultural and stock remedies by the agriculture department's Registrar of Act No. 36 of 1947 said Jonathan Madzungu. But farmers and chemical companies should not expect relief any time soon. Madzungu told Farmers Weekly that initiatives to reduce waiting periods included updating the database, training new toxicologists, a tender process to outsource work to external service providers, recruiting additional personnel and the use of personnel from other areas of the department.

[Farmer's Weekly, 7 August 2009]

South African Valencia Projections down for 2009

Feedback on their regions' updated projections of exports by the Valencia Focus Group representatives pointed to a final projection of 37 million cartons, down from February's estimate of about 43 million cartons. Limpopo River, Hoedspruit, Nelspruit, Onderberg, Patensie, Swaziland and Orange River regions all revised their projections downwards.

[CGA; 2 September 2009]

Pakistan to export seedless Mandarin to Europe

Following a breakthrough in the production of seedless mandarin, Pakistan is expected to start exporting this variety of citrus fruit to Europe by 2011.

[app.com.pk ; 3 September 2009]

Murcia's citrus sector faces problems

Spanish fresh produce association Asaja Murcia has forecast that as much as 45 per cent of Murcia's citrus producers could abandon their farms in the coming years as a result of the poor results of recent campaigns. According to the association, disappointing returns received over recent seasons has led to many orchards becoming unprofitable, which in turn had resulted in growers looking to switch to other more profitable crops.

[Fruitnet.com; 01 September 2009]

US: South African citrus imports mirror 2008

By the end of September, when the last of the shipments from South Africa are expected to arrive, an estimated 35,000 tons of navels, clementines and other citrus will have been exported to the U.S., similar to last year's season-end total, according to a news release from the Western Cape Citrus Producers' Forum, which represents about 350 South African citrus exporters. While navel exports from South Africa to the U.S. were down this summer, clementine exports were up, thanks, van der Merwe speculates, to consumers' desire for smaller fruit. Clementines sold in two- and three-pound bags proved to be especially popular this summer, he said.

[ThePacker.com; 01 September 2009]

Florida to produce fewer navels and grapefruit

Florida growers expect this season to bring smaller volumes of grapefruit and navel oranges. Shippers expect normal volume of fallglo tangerines. Florida navel volume, which normally starts in early October, is expected to be down by 25%, said Kevin Swords, Florida citrus sales manager for DNE World Fruit Sales, Fort Pierce, Fla.

In February, frost and subsequent drought conditions damaged blooms in some areas, Swords said. Indian River region grapefruit is expected to begin a week to 10 days later than normal, said Matt Kastensmidt, national sales manager of IMG Citrus Inc., Vero Beach, Fla. He said he thinks volume may decline by 15% following winter freeze damage and increasing incidence of melanose, a cosmetic disease that blemishes external appearance. Florida growers normally begin shipping smaller-sized grapefruit in early and mid-October with more of the larger fruit, 27s and 32s, hitting in December and January.

[ThePacker.com- Courtesy IMG Citrus ; 01 September 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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