

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (34/2009)

John Edmonds (11 September 2009)

Exchange Rate at 14:30 R/\$ 7.57 R/€ 11.05 R/£ 12.64



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

AU: Wrinklies in the citrus crop

Western Australian citrus growers are battling wrinkly skins. Halfway through their harvest season, significant proportions of the crop have been affected by albedo breakdown, an affliction which causes orange skins to become wrinkly. Although it doesn't affect the eating quality of the flesh, or threaten human health, affected oranges don't look as attractive to consumers. Most of them end up being sent to the juicing market, which pays a lot less than the fresh market. Geoff Fawcett, chair of the WA Citrus Council, says the condition has been much more prevalent this year than usual. Some people have got away with 10 per cent, which is what you would normally expect on a reasonable year," he says. "Other people have had 50 per cent failure, and I heard of one property that had as much as 80 per cent on one variety.

[abc.net.au; 10 September 2009]

Reefer demolition continues apace

Up to 40 specialised reefer vessels are forecast to be scrapped in 2009 with the loss of 15-16m cbft of cubic capacity.

[ReeferTrends; 11 September 2009]

Further reduction in SA Valencia exports

An increase in exports to the Middle East, Russia and Asia has offset the significant reduction in volumes shipped this year to north and south Europe.

[ReeferTrends; 07 September 2009]

Huge fall in Cuban citrus production

The production of citrus fruit fell more than 45% this year in Cuba

The government of Cuba informed that this year production of citrus fruit in Cuba fell more than 45% comparing to the same period last year.

According to this information, this slump in production of citrus is due to hurricanes, pests and diseases of citrus trees. The production of citrus was 234,000 tons comparing to 391,000 tons in 2008 and 469,000 tons in 2007.

[Frictidor.com; 10 September 2009]

No change in global orange production and trade 03 September 2009

The world's production and trade of oranges, estimated at 50.8m MT and 3.2m MT respectively is unchanged from the February forecast.

[ReeferTrends; 3 September 2009]

Israel: Mtex is now preparing the new Citrus season

The Israeli company Mtex is now preparing for the new Citrus season. The company is Israel's biggest private Citrus grower and exporter with offices in various parts of the world. With over 8500 ha of production MTEX has recently moved to plant a significant amount of Sunrise and the new easy peeler Or. "Our Sunrise can be compared with the Star Ruby from other countries and will be exported to Europe, Asia, Japan and Russia," says Dirk Willem Blijleven, Commercial director of MTEX Europe. "In favour of the Sunrise (Israel's Star Ruby variety) the production of Red Pomelo and Sweetie will diminish the coming years. Mtex has invested in the growth of this product and many new orchards will start their production soon.

[FreshPlaza.com; 10 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

YOUR LEVY WORKING FOR YOU – GROWER LEVIES ARE USED TO FUND THE ACTIVITIES OF CGA