



GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (40/2009)

John Edmonds (30 October 2009)

Exchange Rate at 11:12 R/\$ 7.72 R/€ 11.46 R/£ 12.80

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Med citrus crop forecast flat

Preliminary indications are that this season's Mediterranean rim citrus crop will be similar in total volumes terms to last season, at 17.4m MT.

[Reefer Trends; 26 October 2009]

Japan donates \$3.9m for citrus scheme

The Southern Fruit Research Institute has launched a Japanese Government-funded project to help citrus farmers in the Cuu Long (Mekong) Delta apply modern farming techniques. Its director, Nguyen Minh Chau, said the US\$3.9 million project was aimed at improving farmers' lives by upgrading local agricultural extension systems and enabling them to adopt advanced cultivation techniques to grow disease-free and high-quality citrus strains it has developed and increase yields. The delta now has more than 73,000ha under citrus plants, mainly orange, mandarin and grapefruit. The provinces with the largest areas under citrus are Tien Giang, Vinh Long and Ben Tre. In recent years the quality of orchards here has declined significantly because of some common diseases like greening and brown root rot.

[vietnamnews.vnagency.com.vn; 26 October 2009]

Freshfel Europe Unveils Northern Hemisphere Citrus Production Forecasts

The citrus production in the Northern Hemisphere countries (the Mediterranean basin and the USA) should reach 21,9 million tonnes, an increase of 0,5% compared to last year. This data is part of the effort undertaken by Freshfel Europe together with SHAFTE to improve the transparency of information available for the fresh produce sector.

The production in the Mediterranean basin should reach 17,4 million tonnes this year. Spain is expecting a 20% decrease in its citrus production, which will fall to 5,4 million tonnes, while Morocco and Israel are both predicting a 1% decrease. On the contrary, production increases are expected in Turkey (9%), Egypt (5%), Greece (8%) and Cyprus (3%). Italy is set to experience a recovery of production, back to levels registered in the 2007/2008 season, which is 36% above the production for last season. On the other side of the Atlantic, US production is expected to increase by 2%, and total citrus production should be just under 4,5 million tonnes.

[Freshfel.org; 23 October 2009]

Texas citrus shipments underway

Most Texas citrus packinghouses were in production by the middle of October, and volumes of oranges and grapefruit from the Lone Star State was starting to increase.

[Fructidor.com; 26 October 2009]

US: Orange juice may rise as disease strikes Florida

Orange-juice futures may rise about 6 percent over the next 18 months because of crop disease in Florida, the world's second-largest producer, said Kenneth Geld, chief executive officer of Louis Dreyfus Commodities in Brazil.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said on Oct. 9 that Florida will produce 136 million boxes of oranges in the harvest that is just starting, down from a revised 162.4 million in the previous season. Farmers have removed trees to slow the spread of citrus greening, an incurable bacterial disease that kills the crop.

[Bloomberg.com; 28 October 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_week40-09.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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