GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (42/2009)

John Edmonds (13 November 2009)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Exchange Rate at 15:00 R/$ 7.44 R/€ 11.07 R/£ 12.41

Storms hit Spanish citrus crops

Winds recorded at more than 100km/h in the north and southwest of Castellón have severely damaged the region's clementine crop
[Reefer Trends; 10 November 2009]

Concern over Australian citrus blossom

A test crop of Washington navel oranges in Sunraysia this year reached full flowering on September 22 - the earliest date in more than a decade.
[Reefer Trends; 12 November 2009]

Satsuma suppliers struggling

There is a drastic shortage of Spanish satsumas for UK supermarket buyers this season due to weather issues and sizing problems. Rain in September has pushed availability down to just 60 per cent of last season's volumes as fruit was lost from the trees. The result is that remaining satsumas are very large and outside the usual specifications for the UK market.
[FPJ; 6 November 2009]

Turkish set for strong citrus season

Turkish citrus growers and exporters are forecasting a strong start to the season, with volumes some 20 per cent higher than they were last year. Lemons kicked off the season three weeks ago, followed by Star Ruby grapefruit, before a wider range of citrus fruit comes on stream, including satsumas in the first week of November and oranges at the end of the month.
[FPJ; 6 November 2009]

UK – FRESH PRODUCE CONSORTIUM PRAISES UK GOVERNMENT

In a statement the Fresh Produce Consortium said that the UK Government deserves credit for cutting out red tape with its implementation of the new EU Marketing Standards compared to other EU states, as elsewhere across Europe the industry is suffering from the imposition of a poorly thought out regulation resulting in additional layers of bureaucracy. They further state that "many small to medium sized businesses in the UK would have faced a mass of additional bureaucracy as well having to deal with the current economic pressures" and that this "is a great example of industry working effectively with a receptive government agency to deliver benefits for the sector".
[Freshfel; 5 November 2009]

Spain imports less southern hemisphere citrus

The Valencia Agriculture Association demands a single point of entry for all Southern hemisphere citrus and a temporary suspension of imports from South Africa.
[Reefer Trends; 13 November 2009]

US: H1N1 concerns may be spurring orange juice boom

The Florida Department of Citrus has long been pushing the health benefits of a glass of orange juice. As concerns about H1N1 flu have ramped up, it appears people are listening, according to the Scripps TV Station Group. Analysts suggest that retail sales of orange juice have risen over the last six months, likely in part to an increased demand from a population doing anything they can to stave off swine flu. That's good news for Florida's orange juice industry, which will likely produce less orange juice this year.
The Florida Department of Agriculture projects 16% less orange juice during the 2009-10 year compared to 2008-09.
Cold weather, drought and citrus disease are to blame for the lower production
[wisconsinagconnection.com; 11 November 2009]

US: Florida citrus rolling into California; next target – overseas

Fresh Florida citrus was entering California within days of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's new canker rule allowing shipments to other citrus producing states for the first time in several years, Richard Kinney of Florida Citrus Packers says in the first report.
The next big target for Florida's fresh fruit market is Japan and other overseas markets, Kinney says in the second report.
[southeastagnet.com; 9 November 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_week46-09.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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