



GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (9/2010)

John Edmonds (26 March 2010)

Exchange Rate at 09:30 R/\$ 7.45 R/€ 9.94 R/£ 11.08

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

US - Scientists' Suggestion for Combatting Citrus Greening is Tree Removal

Even the prestige of the National Academy of Sciences may not persuade many growers to remove trees infected by citrus greening, particularly in heavily infected groves. Tree removal was one of the key recommendations the Academy recommended in a 326-page report released Tuesday outlining a strategy to combat greening, a fatal bacterial disease that threatens the continued existence of Florida citrus. "I personally think some of the recommendations are going to be very hard to implement, and that's one of them," said Dan Gunter, the chief operating officer of the Florida Citrus Research and Development Foundation Inc., a body of growers and academics charged with overseeing a multimillion-dollar research effort against greening.

[Theledger.com; 23 March 2010]

Orange: The Universal Superfruit

You must be surprised that the common low-cost orange, available in every market, is a star among the twenty fruits (mango, fig, orange, strawberry, goji, red grape, cranberry, kiwifruit, papaya, blueberry, sweet and sour cherries, red raspberry, seaberry, guava, blackberry, black currant, date, pomegranate, acai, and plums) chosen by Dr. Paul Gross to be superfruits. Even though the orange ranks number three, in reality it ties up with the fig, superfruit number two. Both superfruits have equal status following Gross criteria (nutrient and photochemical contents, scientific research and clinic trial results). The orange is cultivated in many parts of the world, South-East Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Brazil, and the United States. Orange juice is the only superfruit product traded on the New York Stock Exchange as a commodity in worldwide trading. Orange juice is also the most popular among all juices. It is served freshly squeezed or canned in parties, for breakfast, at receptions, and in homes and restaurants. Availability in stores and low cost make the high nutritional value of the orange and juice accessible to a good section of the world population.

[arabnews.com; 24 Mar 2010]

US (FL): Engineered oranges needed to resist disease

If the Florida orange industry wants to resist a sweeping tide of disease that has ravaged its trees for the past five years, it will likely have no choice but to genetically engineer its crops, according to a report released today by the National Academy of Sciences. Since its discovery in 2005, citrus greening disease -- also known from its Asian origins as huanglongbing -- has spread to nearly every orange-growing county in Florida, carried by an invasive relative of the aphid, the Asian citrus psyllid. The bacterial disease has already cut the state's orange juice production by several percentage points, leaving swaths of the \$9.3 billion industry to sprout misshapen, sour fruit unsuitable even for juicing. Once a tree is infected, there is no cure.

Though there are non-citrus plants that demonstrate resistance to greening, due to expense or incompatibility, the genes required for creating the modified trees would likely stem from "animal, plant, microbial or bacteriophage origin" or from components of venom or bacterial spore proteins, the report says.

Introducing genetically modified citrus trees would face substantial hurdles. While engineered crops using bacteria genes have been widely accepted in corn, soy and other cash crops, few minor crops have been deregulated for commercial use, with Hawaii's papayas, engineered to resist the ringspot virus, being the notable example.

[nytimes.com; 24 Mar 2010]

California - Valencia Orange Production Forecast Up

The initial 2009-10 Valencia orange forecast is 34 million cartons, 21 percent above last season's estimated total of 28 million cartons. This forecast is based on the results of the 2009-10 Valencia Orange Objective Measurement (O.M.) Survey, which was conducted from January 15 to February 24, 2010.

[www.nass.usda.gov; 10 Mar 2010]

US market re-opens to Korean pipfruit and soft citrus 18 March 2010

Korea had exported tangerines to the US between 1995 and 2002, when a discovery of Citrus Canker at source halted the trade.

[Reefertrends; 18 March 2010]

Zest for SA citrus

The new company JV between Unlimi and Komati Citrus creates the third largest citrus exporting company in South Africa after Capespan and Colors.

[Reefertrends; 23 March 2010]

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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