GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (13/2010)

John Edmonds (7 May 2010) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Exchange Rate at 14:00 R/$ 7.71 R/€ 9.81 R/£ 11.30

Mandarin export Southern Hemisphere to grow 8% in 2010

It is estimated that Chilean shipments will remain similar to last year. Argentina's exports to date, experience a decline, which will be offset by an increase in South Africa and Peru. Southern Hemisphere mandarins this year presented an increase of 8 percent in total supply, recording 342,800 tonnes compared with 317,000 tons from 2009-according to estimates made on April 13. In particular, Chile exported one percent more than in 2009 (that year 27,680 tons were exported) totalling 27,922 tonnes. In the case of South Africa shipments reached 112,500 tons, registering a rise of 10 percent compared with the previous year (102,000tons). The greatest increase is in the hands of Peru, a country which exported 37 percent more than last year, recording shipments of nearly 57,000 tons versus 41,300 tons in 2009.
[freshplaza.com; 27 April 2010]

US: Periwinkle plants provide ammunition in the war on citrus greening

A team of scientists from the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the University of Florida Indian River Research and Education Center have turned an ornamental plant into a tool for combating a bacterial disease that threatens the world’s citrus crop. Periwinkle (Catharanthus roseus) has proved to be an effective screening tool for treatments to control Huanglongbing (HLB), according to Yong-Ping Duan of the ARS U.S. Horticultural Research Laboratory (USHRL) in Fort Pierce, Fla. HLB, also known as citrus greening, is one of the most destructive diseases of citrus worldwide. Caused by three closely related species of bacteria, there is no known cure for HLB and no established effective treatments. It remains a threat not only to the citrus industry in Florida, where it was discovered in 2005, but to citrus nationwide. The search for controls has been hampered in part because infected citrus plants are difficult to regenerate and study. Duan and his colleagues have found that periwinkle performs well as a stand-in for citrus, becoming quickly infected with HLB bacterium and responding well to antibiotic compounds tested to reduce infection.
[freshplaza.com; 27 April 2010]

South Australian citrus favoured by no fruit flies

Citrus growers in South Australia's Riverland will be at an export advantage this season. Their fruit fly free status means South Australian growers can continue to export fruit to the United States. Fruit fly outbreaks in Mildura and Sunraysia have meant growers will not able to send fruit to the US until November. Executive officer of the South Australian Citrus Board, Andrew Green says the fruit fly free status can also save growers money. "While Sunraysia and the Riverina can't access a number of markets, or if they do they have to cold-treat, we can actually send there without the additional costs." Mr Green says Riverland growers could be saving about $150 per packed tonne.
[abc.net.au; 30 April 2010]

AU: Early citrus release could backfire

The new citrus season has begun and early varieties are already coming off the tree. Navelinas from Paringa in South Australia's Riverland have internally matured, forcing them to be picked despite a greenish exterior. Riverland citrus industry development officer, Kym Thiel, says the citrus industry could be 'cutting its own throat' by sending the fruit to market, to compete with imported fruit still on supermarket shelves. "Traditionally what happens, we put poor-coloured, poor-tasting fruit on the market and we have buyer reaction, where they don't come back for what can be up to weeks, maybe months even."
[abc.net.au; 23 April 2010]

French wholesale giant enters China

The operator of Rungis, the world’s largest fresh produce wholesale market based in Paris, has forged a joint venture to set up and manage wholesale markets in China
[Fruitnet; 4 May 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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