



GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (14/2010)

John Edmonds (14 May 2010)

Exchange Rate at 12:45 R/\$ 7.52 R/€ 9.40 R/£ 10.97

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

California forecasts record soft citrus crop

An estimated 341K MT of tangerines and mandarins are expected to be produced this year, up 11% from the 1 January crop forecast issued by the USDA.

[ReeferTrends; 6 May 2010]

AU: Big orange returns for Riverland growers

A smaller citrus crop in South Australia due to some extreme heat late last year looks like being offset by the size of the fruit. Kym Thiel from Citrus Australia says navelina and washington oranges are the biggest they have been in years.

The washingtons are almost nine millimetres larger than anything recorded in the past 17 years.

[abc.net.au; 7 May 2010]

Race on to get mandarins to Asia

The window to supply Indonesia and Hong Kong with niche citrus varieties is now open, but not for long. While most growers in Queensland are picking imperial mandarins for the domestic market, this month is the busiest of the year for Iron Bark Citrus at Mundubbera. It's running two shifts a day to pick and pack freemont, sunburst and nova mandarins for export. Alan Jenkin, the co-owner of the inland Burnett orchard, says there's a limited opportunity. "We've just got to beat all our cheaper southern hemisphere competitors like Chile, Argentina and South Africa into these markets, get our fruit sold and be out of there before their fruit arrives."

[abc.net.au; 13 May 2010]

OTC USA to import organic South African grapefruit

For the first time, South African citrus grower-shippers will be allowed to ship grapefruit to the U.S, and a Massachusetts company plans to be one of the first importers to bring in organic grapefruit from the country. Stoneham, Mass.-based OTC USA Inc. expects to bring in organic ruby star grapefruit from South Africa's lower Orange River valley in June and possibly July, said Marco Brakkee, the company's vice president. Volumes will be light this season, with distribution limited to the East Coast, Brakkee said. Some fruit also will be shipped to Canada. Organic South African grapefruit shipped to Europe this season by OTC USA's parent company, Lelystad, Holland-based OTC Holland BV, has been very well received, with excellent taste and color reported, Brakkee said.

[thepacker.com; 13 May 2010]

US (FL): Citrus canker windfall hits a sour note

Despite a court ruling that says Broward property owners are due \$11 million, Florida doesn't want to pay for citrus trees cut down during a canker epidemic...The Fourth District Court of Appeal unanimously held that some 55,000 Broward property owners are due \$11 million for healthy trees felled by state chain saws from 1995 to 2006.

"Government has regulatory power for the very purpose of safeguarding the rights of citizens, not for destroying them," the judges wrote. "Under any possible meaning, if government cuts down and burns private property having value, then government has taken it. And if government has taken it, government must pay for it."

Confirming a widely held belief among property owners, the ruling said it was "apparent from the history of this case that [the Department] destroyed these privately owned healthy trees not because they were 'imminently dangerous' to anybody, but instead to benefit the citrus industry."

"We respectfully disagree with the appeal court, and we will appeal it to the Florida Supreme Court," Florida Department of Agriculture spokesman Terence McElroy said, citing \$44.5 million already paid on claims around the state.

[miamiherald.com; 13 May 2010]

Australian bud sales soar

Citrus growers continue to favour traditional varieties, judging by the latest bud sales figures from Auscitrus. The national citrus budwood and seed supplier has sold 511,733 buds so far this financial year, 8 per cent more than in 2008-09.

[weeklytimesnow.com.au; 13 May 2010]

Somali pirates release hijacked cargo vessel 'MV Talca' with Sri Lankan crew members

The cargo vessel, 'MV Talca' which was hijacked along with its multinational crew including twenty Sri Lankan nationals, by Somali pirates on 23rd March 2010 was released on 11th May 2010 after lengthy negotiations and the payment of a ransom.

[asiantribune.com; 13 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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