GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (17/2010)

John Edmonds (7 June 2010) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)
Exchange Rate at 15:00 R/$ 7.77 R/€ 9.30 R/£ 11.27

Chinese market open for Maroccan citrus

From now on, Moroccan growers can export citrus to the Chinese market. The opening is the result of a collaboration between the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, marine industry professionals and the National Council for Food Safety (ONSSA). Both countries have agreed on the phytosanitary requirements so that the Moroccan citrus will be allowed to be exported the Chinese market. In the year 2010 the citrus varieties of 18 orchards have been approved, these are mainly clementines and Moroccan Late variety.

[www.freshplaza.com; 31 May 2010]

US: Looming monster hurricane season menaces agriculture

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Thursday issued its first forecast for the hurricane season which begins on Tuesday, projecting 14 to 23 named storms, with 8 to 14 developing into hurricanes, 3 to 7 of which could become majors with winds whipping at more than 110 miles per hour.
A storm could also slam into Florida, the leading citrus growing state in the U.S. Three hurricanes ravaged citrus farms in Florida in 2004 and then Hurricane Wilma hit the region in October 2005, badly damaging citrus output. Indeed, Florida's citrus has been badly damaged by storms and disease. Before 2004, production averaged well over 200 million (90-lb) boxes. In 2009/10, however, the government estimated the state's citrus output at 131.6 million boxes.

[reuters.com; 31 May 2010]

Argentina's citrus catching up

The Argentinean citrus season is getting on track after a slow start to the lemon campaign, according to Roberto Sánchez Loria, president of the Tucuman citrus association in north-west Argentina. Sizes were small, the season started late and demand was slow to begin with. He said: "We knew that the start would be slow, but we are working hard and sendings to Europe are more like normal now. We were just waiting for sizes to build up. We are working calmly and without gaps in availability."

[freshinfo.com; 31 May 2010]

Chile: Citrus Update

In Chile the fight for early clementines has been intense… there is a perception that there is not enough fruit to meet market demand… In the month of June, this is likely to be the case. July and August will be another matter entirely. Today, few Chilean clementines have landed on either coast and what has landed is in the hands of very few receivers. While it is too early to quote a market price, 15 kg clementines are said to be trading at US$ 30 – 32 with some sales higher. A light volume of Peruvian clementines are also available as well as some satsumas that are reportedly struggling in the market. South Africa had hoped to have early clementines in the market to take advantage of the late start to the Chilean season. But the early fruit was caught in the South African port workers' labour dispute and was never loaded. South African clementines will now join the fray in Week 25
The first South African navel oranges will also arrive on the Tama Hope. Price expectations for these first navels range from US$ 28-32 for large fruit and US$ 24-26 for smaller counts.
While there is no consensus on what volume of Chilean navel oranges will be exported to the US, there is consensus that a generally successful first season in 2009 and a positive view of the product by the US retail trade will encourage a bigger volume to be exported to the US. The relative decline of the Euro against the dollar will also have some impact although it must be noted that in 2009 Chilean shippers decimated their Europe and United Kingdom navel volumes in order to supply the US.

[www.freshplaza.com; 1 June 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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