

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (26/2010)

John Edmonds (13 August 2010)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Current Exchange Rate at 15:30	R/\$ 7.30	R/€ 9.35	R/£ 11.38
Last Week:	R/\$ 7.25	R/€ 9.61	R/£ 11.54
Last Year:	R/\$ 8.10	R/€ 11.49	R/£ 13.35

US: Florida orange crop to jump 22% in 2011 as groves rebound

The orange crop in Florida, the world's second-largest producer, may increase 22 percent over the next year as groves recover from a freeze in January, said Jimmy Tintle, an analyst at Transworld Futures. Output may jump to 163 million boxes in the harvest that begins in October, compared with a three-year low of 133.6 million in 2009-2010, said Tintle, who accurately predicted the crop decline in January. The new forecast is based on visits to citrus groves and interviews with growers, he said. "We had plenty of moisture, and the frost in January didn't affect the new crop as much as people had expected," Tintle said by telephone today from Tampa, Florida. "Trees are loaded with fruit, and the fruit size is good. That's going to increase box count." Orange-juice futures have surged 27 percent in the past year, touching a two-year high of \$1.53 a pound on March 8, after the worst cold snap in more than 20 years damaged about 5 percent of crop in Florida's citrus belt in January. The U.S. Department of Agriculture cut its forecast of the 2009-2010 crops to 129 million boxes in February. Since then, the department raised its estimate three times, citing a favorable mix of rain and sunshine. The harvest runs from October into July. A box of oranges weighs 90 pounds (41 kilograms). Growers picked 162.5 million boxes in the 2008-2009 season and 170.2 million a year earlier, according to the USDA. Orange-juice futures for September delivery fell 5.3 cents, or 3.7 percent, to close at \$1.3895 as of 2 p.m. on ICE Futures U.S. in New York. Brazil is the biggest producer.
[bloomberg.com; 11 August 2010]

Argentina: All Lemon carries out quality controls to prevent frozen lemons to reach the market

All Lemon Civil Association, consisting of 11 citrus companies from Tucuman and from NOA decided to increase the quality controls on its packaging partners, with the purpose to prevent that lemon, which could have been affected by frost season in the past July, does not enter to the packaging process for export markets. In the past half of July, a frost season harassed lemon areas of Tucumán and most of the citrus area of northwest Argentina, which were accompanied by snow and cold weather in most of the piedmont area of Tucuman, Salta, and Jujuy. This climatologic phenomenon that recorded an income of a polar cold face from the south of the country caused extensive damage throughout the region... This situation led the citrus industry from Tucumán to stop their processes for a few days, especially their harvest, to review the damage that could have caused the meteorological effect on the lemons that were destined primarily for export markets.
[federcitrus.org; 10 August 2010]

AU: Super-size oranges too big for Americans

Citrus growers are facing a unique problem sending their fruit to the United States this year... it's too big. Normally big fruit is a good thing, and fetches a higher price. But Dennis Hodson, general manager of Riversun Exports, says that this year's fruit is a new extreme. "Per piece of fruit, it becomes very expensive, it depends who's buying... the consumer who's buying for themselves or their children," he says. "Children won't eat a large orange like that. And we're talking four inches plus in diameter, this fruit, so it's pretty big."
[abc.net.au; 10 August 2010]

NZ: Mandarin growers report mixed results

Mandarin producers in the main growing regions of Northland and Gisborne are reporting contrasting results for this season. Volumes of the main mandarin variety, satsuma, have been severely hit in Northland, with the majority of orchards producing 40% less fruit. In Gisborne, this season's crop has been average and as a result of the shortage coming out of Northland, prices have been greatly improved. The chair of the Citrus Growers group, Rick Curtis, says the mandarin harvest at his Kerikeri orchard was 43% down on last year. He says growers hope the other citrus varieties that are ripening now - lemons and oranges - will not be similarly affected.
[radionz.co.nz; 12 August 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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