GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (29/2010)

John Edmonds (3 September 2010) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Current Exchange Rate at 15:30	R/$ 7.18	R/€ 9.22	R/£ 11.09
Last Week:	R/$ 7.36	R/€ 9.37	R/£ 11.40
Last Year:	R/$ 7.86	R/€ 11.17	R/£ 12.72

Stellar year for California navels

California's navel orange industry is reflecting on one of its best-ever seasons, with initial indications pointing to another bumper crop for 2010/11. The latest figures from California Citrus Mutual show that some 81m cartons of navel oranges were produced by the state in 2009/10, a sharp increase on the 64m carton crop harvested in the previous season.
The bumper navel crop was matched by a strong year for exports, which weighed in at around 18-19m cartons to account for some 23 per cent of production, according to Bob Blakely of California Citrus Mutual.
Another characteristic of the season was a late finish to harvesting and shipping, which ran until the end of July for some growers thanks to a cool spring. This year's hefty yield fell short of the record, which was set a few seasons ago with a 100m-carton yield, but the upcoming crop could come closer to that milestone. Official estimates for 2010/11 will not be released for a few more weeks, but industry sources are already forecasting a mammoth crop that will top the 2009/10 total.
[Fruitnet.com; 03 September 2010]

Brazilian production of oranges falls for the second year straight.

For the second consecutive year the Brazilian production of oranges fell. Last year, the problem was the excessive rain that hit Florada and favored the emergence of diseases in plants. Now the drought is considered a threat to orchards. The expectation is that there will be price increases for the producer. The result of the Brazilian crop influences the market worldwide… Estimates of CitrusBR, which represents the orange juice industry, say that harvests will be around 290 million cases this season. Last season they passed the 350 million mark.
[Freshplaza.com; 1 September 2010]

Brazil: Orange exports to Saudi increase

Brazil's exports of oranges to Arab countries rose slightly between January and July this year. Brazil shipped 1,900 tonnes of fruit to Arab countries this year, up from last year's total of 1,800 tonnes, according to figures disclosed by the Foreign Trade Secretariat (Secex) of the Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade, Brazil…Saudi Arabia is the third main importer of Brazilian citrus and the sole purchaser for the Arab region this year. Last year the fruit was also bought by United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar…Brazil's problem is with sanitary issues, as most of the fruit exported is for table consumption and needs an excellent appearance. Brazil exported 26,000 tonnes of oranges last year, resulting in revenues of US$ 11 million. Up to July this year, sales totalled 16,900 tonnes…The main buyer was Spain.
[Freshplaza.com; 1 September 2010]

India: Tangy fruits help stay slim

Munching on tangy fruits can help you stay slim, reveals a new study. The study conducted on mice showed that the juice of the blood orange stopped them from piling on weight when fed a high-fat diet…The research team from University of Milan believe the fat-busting powers of the fruit, grown in Italy and the US, may be partly due to its high levels of anthocyanin. This red pigment that gives the orange its deep colour is a type of antioxidant, a natural chemical that helps ward off disease, reports dailymail.co.uk. The juice damages the ability of cells called adipocytes to accumulate fat. Adipocytes are found mostly around the waistline and absorb fat from food to store as energy.
[zeenews.com; 30 August 2010]

Citrus prices on FreshPlaza.com and AGF.nl

Please click on the link below to display these prices which are average Free on Truck prices in Euros recorded in the Dutch fresh produce market and can be taken as an indication for the European situation.
http://www.freshplaza.com/price-watch/archief/2010/citrus_week35-10.pdf

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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