GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (33/2010)

John Edmonds (1 October 2010)
Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Current Exchange Rate	R/$ 6.96	R/€ 9.49	R/£ 11.00
Last Week:	R/$ 7.04	R/€ 9.40	R/£ 11.04
Last Year:	R/$ 7.43	R/€ 10.90	R/£ 11.91

[http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter]

US Sees Citrus Value Boosted

While the country's citrus production dropped 8 per cent in 2009/10, value jumped 5 per cent on high prices
The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service has released its Citrus Fruits Summary for the year, revealing that total US production for 2009/10 came to 10.9m tonnes, down 8 per cent year-on-year.
[Fruitnet; 27 September 2010]

Mediterranean Basin Citrus Production Forecasts

This season citrus production in the Mediterranean basin countries should reach a total of 17.1 million tonnes, a decrease of 2,2% compared to last year…The leading producing country **Spain** is recovering from low production levels last year with a 9% increase in its citrus production, rising to 5,9 million tonnes. Italy and Israel are both predicting a decrease by 22% and 10% respectively. Limited production increases are expected in Turkey (1%) and Cyprus (6%). In Morocco, first estimates by the industry indicate a total citrus production of almost 1,3 million tonnes, down by 2% compared to last year. Greece is expecting a rather similar production compared to last year.
Orange production is forecast to be 6% down on last season in the Mediterranean basin. This is mainly due to a fall in production in Italy (-27%), Israel (-18%) and Turkey (-15%). Production in Spain is forecast to be 9% up on last season, with Cyprus, Greece and Morocco expected to produce similar amounts as the year before. It is noted that there will be a delay of maturity by almost two weeks in Spain as well as some other producing countries.
Easy peeler production in the Mediterranean region is expected to be 3,3% up overall due to the 25% increase from Turkey, as well as Cyprus (10%), Israel (10%) and Spain (5%). Production levels in Greece are expected to remain constant overall, with decreases announced in Italy (-10%) and Morocco (-5% in particular due to late varieties, with the decrease partially offset by new Afourer plantings).
Lemon production in the Mediterranean is forecast to rise by 4,5% overall, with increases in production in Spain (20%), Turkey (15%) and Cyprus (10%), whilst Italy is registering a 20% decrease. The summer months recorded high prices due to the early end of Spanish fruit on the market and a better balance of supply between fresh and processed markets in the Southern Hemisphere. Argentina was affected by frosts but maintained its volumes and good returns. The strong prices recorded so far are progressively declining as Turkey is coming into the market with a larger volume.
Grapefruit production in the Mediterranean basin is expected to decrease by 9,5% in total, due mainly to a fall of 14% in Israel's production and by 10% in Turkey's production. Only Spain is expecting an increase in production (6%), while the other producing countries seem to have a stable production.
[www.freshplaza.com; 27 September 2010]

US: Citrus Area Survey Results

Results of the annual commercial citrus inventory show a net decrease of 14,777 total citrus acres, or 2.6 percent, from the last survey. The gross loss of 25,109 acres was larger and the new plantings of 10,322 acres were smaller compared to the previous inventory. Of the 30 counties included in the survey, 23 recorded decreases and 7 showed increases in acreage. Orange acreage declined for the sixth consecutive survey to 483,418, the lowest since the record low of 466,252 tallied in the 1986 inventory. Valencias comprise 56 percent of the total orange trees, non-Valencias account for 43 percent, with the unidentified trees making up the remainder. Bearing trees comprise more than 93 percent of the total trees, the same percentage as recent years.
Grapefruit acreage fell to a new low of 50,189, representing only 56 percent of the pre-hurricanes figure. Both the white and colored seedless varieties lost more than 1,800 acres since the previous inventory. Specialty acreage continued to decline to a record low of 20,430. All tangerine acreage fell 9 percent to 13,613. Honey tangerines account for 47 percent of the tangerine total with 6,456 acres. Sunburst acreage remains at 79 percent of the early tangerine total with 5,681 acres, while Fallglo acreage of 1,476 makes up the rest. Tangelo acreage decreased 10 percent to 4,727.
[United States Department of Agriculture; 23 September 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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