

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (34/2010)

John Edmonds (8 October 2010)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Current Exchange Rate	R/\$ 6.86	R/€ 9.57	R/£ 10.91
Last Week:	R/\$ 6.96	R/€ 9.49	R/£ 11.00
Last Year:	R/\$ 7.43	R/€ 10.93	R/£ 11.82

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

Spain: Valencia citrus in full swing

The citrus collection campaign in Valencia is already in full swing...the campaign seems very similar, both in regard to production, and the quality of the product, to last year's, although there is a slight delay in the maturity index, while on the other hand, there are no hybrid seed varieties.

[www.freshplaza.com; 7 October 2010]

Israel: Grapefruit available earlier because of hot summer

The Israeli Sunrise grapefruit is available again. "The season started about ten days earlier because of the hot summer" said Oron Ziv, manager of Mtex in Barendrecht. Production is expected to be about the same as last year. Mtex is the largest producer of citrus in Israel. Last season they exported 35,000 tons of grapefruit, which is a large share of the total Israeli export of 60,000 tons.

[www.freshplaza.com; 29 September 2010]

US (FL): Citrus growers cautiously looking at replanting

Abandoned citrus acreage in the Treasure Coast continued to increase in the past year, but area growers say the trend has "plateaued." Martin County, second to St. Lucie County in total abandoned acreage, had the largest increase in 2010, from 14,827 to 17,541 acres, a report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agriculture Statistics Service shows. Abandoned citrus acres in St. Lucie County increased from 27,355 to 27,869, while Indian River County decreased from 13,234 to 12,071. The 56,809 abandoned citrus acres in the Treasure Coast is a 3 percent increase from a year ago and represents 41 percent of the statewide total of 138,516 acres. Citrus groves in the Treasure Coast produced 6.4 percent of Florida's orange crop last season, but 72 percent of the grapefruit. Most of the grapefruit is shipped to Europe and Asia.

The USDA defines a grove as abandoned when the following conditions exist: no production care or commercial harvest for two years, no weed control or grass mowing, presence of livestock, weather damage or neglected trees.

Packers of Indian River in Fort Pierce is one of the grapefruit growers replanting previously abandoned acres. President Mike Garavaglia said the company has nearly 5,000 acres in production and is three years into a 10-year plan to replant 1,500 acres.

[tcpalm.com; 7 October 2010]

US (FL): Exotic fruit flies found in Pinellas County

Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson said two male Oriental fruit flies have been found in a trap in a grapefruit tree in the Pinellas County community of Safety Harbor. The flies (*Bactrocera dorsalis* (Hendel) (Tephritidae) were found during routine surveillance activities conducted by the department's Division of Plant Industry. The Oriental fruit fly is considered one of the most serious of the world's fruit fly pests due to its potential economic harm. It attacks more than 100 different fruits, vegetables and nuts, including citrus, apples, guava, mango, tomatoes and peppers...The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has launched an intensified trapping program in an 81-square-mile area surrounding the fruit fly find in Pinellas County until mid-December...Agricultural officials are attempting to determine the source of the fruit that carried these flies into Florida.

[fosterfollynews.com; 1 October 2010]

Citrus Australia warns on Murray Darling Basin cuts

It says citrus producers and their regional communities will be 'gravely affected' if irrigators have their water entitlements permanently cut by between 27-37%.

[ReeferTrends; 7 October 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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