

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (41/2010)

John Edmonds (3 December 2010)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Current Exchange Rate	R/\$ 6.97	R/€ 9.15	R/£ 10.88
Last Week:	R/\$ 7.05	R/€ 9.40	R/£ 11.12
Last Year:	R/\$ 7.31	R/€ 11.01	R/£ 12.15

AU: Riverina Citrus prepares for drastic action against backyard fruit fly

Griffith's citrus industry will face delays in exporting fruit next year because of another fruit fly outbreak. The insect larvae were recently discovered in fruit sold at a local farmers market. Frank Battistel from Riverina Citrus says, it's now pushing for new laws which'll allow infected backyard trees to be forcibly removed.

"Our next move would be to try and actually have compulsory eradication or removal of loquat trees and feijoa trees. "They're the late one and the early one that are causing the problem. "What we'll have to do is have them compulsorily eradicated from the area, and then if we don't have any success with that, we'll have to move to have all backyard fruit trees removed."

[abc.net.au ; 29 November 2010]

US: Citrus pest spreads in Southern California

A new and potentially devastating citrus pest has reached the Inland Empire.

The Asian citrus psyllid has been trapped in Upland and Montclair after spreading northward from San Diego County. The insects carry a disease that ultimately kills citrus trees. Spokesman Jay Van Rein at the state office of food and agriculture says the disease, itself, has not surfaced in California. But, they're not taking any chances. Treatment starts Monday in the local area. "We treat the trees themselves so that any adult insects are killed. We also use a soil treatment which is taken up over a longer period of time through the roots of the tree and gives the tree more extended protection." Van Rein says residents in the specific treatment area will be given advance notice.

[inlandnewstoday.com; 2 December 2010]

Difficult times for importers of Moroccan clementines

The first mandarins that were sent this season, arrived far too early and therefore had a low brix level, little colour and were hard to peel, resulting in the collapse of the trade. "It's actually a yearly process, a good start, decline and then the market pulls up a bit again just before Christmas." AGF.nl spoke to a few importers. "The prices for Moroccan citrus have never been so bad" according to Rens de Bruijne of Carl Gottman from Barendrecht. "At the moment the market is producing between 6 and 7,5 euros per package. Last year the Moroccan mandarins raised almost twice as much". Now the prices are dropping even further, Morocco is stopping the import to West Europe... It is expected that when the stock runs out the prices will rise again. Good Spanish clementines are also only yielding 9 to 10 euros. When the market gets better again, export to Western Europe will pick up.

[www.freshplaza.com; 1 December 2010]

Argentina: Tucuman lemon to invade the Asian market

Governor José Alperovich was clear when he said that his country wants to raise the export of Argentinian products from US\$ 250 millions to US\$ 800 million, with attention on the lemon production. "The idea is to confirm a joint-venture between the industry from Tucuman and the government from Vietnam. Today they consume some citrus that are produced in this province", indicated the Productive Development Minister, Jorge Gassenbauer, to La Gaceta (local newspaper), after a meeting with the Governor. Vietnam is a possible market, with a population of 90 million inhabitants. There are good perspectives to the lemon, noticed Gassenbauer, that also highlighted that the treaties with the Cancillería continue so the production from Tucuman can get into the United States. But they're also looking at China. Due to that, this week, the city welcomed Maria del Carmen Alarcón, the secretary for the National Integration from the Cabinet Headquarters. She will integrate the delegation that will be lead by the Agriculture Minister, Juan Dominguez, who will fly to China. "There's a proposal to improve the lemon's shipping conditions to this market. If we sent the European demands it will arrive dried out; so, we're looking for not so strict cold conditions in order to get the lemon from Tucuman to this market", admitted Gassenbauer. "It is proven that the lemons from Tucuman don't host the fruit fly and so we believe that there are good prospects for it", she concludes.

[www.freshplaza.com; 1 December 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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