



GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (7/2010)

John Edmonds (12 March 2010)

Exchange Rate at 10:00 R/\$ 7.40 R/€ 10.14 R/£ 11.15

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Plant mandarins. Aussies too lazy to peel oranges

Citrus growers are being warned that growing traditional navel oranges may not be the best way to make money in the next few years. Marketing manager of Citrus Australia, Andrew Harty, says that consumers want more easy-peel fruit, like mandarins. He says that it's a big choice to swap varieties, but it's something that growers need to think about. [abc.net.au; 5 March 2010]

US citrus disease delivers valuable lesson for Western Australia

A department of Agriculture and Food officer has returned from a trip to the United States with a valuable insight into a devastating citrus disease and lessons for protection of the State's industry. Huanglongbing, or greening disease, has cut Florida orchards, which supply 40 per cent of the world's grapefruit, by 80,000 hectares or more than a quarter since 2006. Industry development officer Nathan Hancock said once the disease and its vector, the Asian citrus psyllid, enter growing areas it appears impossible to halt... "The disease starves the citrus tree of carbohydrates by cutting off sap flow to and from the roots and there is no known cure." Travellers bringing infected citrus budwood, Indian curry leaf plant and ornamentals are another possible entry point. [fw.farmonline.com.au ; 10 March 2010]

Pakistan: Seedless 'kino' to start next year

The production and export of seedless 'kinos' (mandarin) is likely to begin from next year, as agricultural scientists have been focusing on multiple cultivation of such varieties. "Seedless varieties of mandarin have been developed at the Nuclear Institute for Agriculture & Biology (NIAB) and Citrus Research Institute (CRI), Sargodha," Agricultural Scientist at National Agriculture Research Centre (NARC) Hafeez-ur-Rehman told APP. Work on developing mandarin hybrid was started in 1999, he said adding that crosses were made between 'kino' and Salustiana for early maturity, less number of seeds and lower acid contents as compared to 'kino'. The process after going through various developments and modifications ultimately culminated in producing a seedless mandarin type. He said these seedless mandarin varieties are being multiplied for further distribution among the farmers and expressed the hope that production would start from 2011. He said with the production of seedless 'kino' varieties, the country's exports would be multiplied and it would attract the European markets. [thenews.com.pk; 8 March 2010]

'Off year' predicted for Chilean citrus exports

After a bumper year in 2009 preliminary forecasts suggest a reduction in the exports of Chilean oranges, lemons and soft citrus. [Reefer Trends; 09 March 2010]

Argentinean citrus exports set to climb

Argentinean citrus exports are forecast to rise in 2010, despite declines in production. According to figures released by Federcitrus, the Argentinean citrus federation, lemon output is likely to fall 200,000 tonnes to one million tonnes, although the sector is forecasting a rise in exports of 25 per cent year on year to 300,000t. Easy-peeler and orange output are both expected to rise, although the association is forecasting a fall in exports of some 14.5 per cent on easy peelers. Orange sendings are predicted to climb nine per cent to 120,000t. [Freshinfo; 1 Mar 10]

US: Citrus Juices for kidney stones

Researchers found that three cups of orange juice a day -- along with other standard dietary changes for kidney stone patients -- did a better job of raising citrate levels and decreasing urine acidity than lemonade or distilled water, the usual recommendations. Along with medication to discourage the formation of kidney stones, sufferers are often encouraged to make dietary changes, among them drinking more citrus juices. Citrate in the fruit reduces the formation of calcium oxalate stones (the most common type) and lowers urine acidity, much like the kidney stone medication potassium citrate. [Source: cleveland.com; 10 March 2010]

Lemon and Honey

Hot lemon and honey is "as good as anything on the market" when it comes to cough and cold remedies, according to Alyn H Morice, a professor of respiratory medicine at Hull York Medical School. [fruitfuloffice.com; 5 March 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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