

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (03/2011)

John Edmonds (28 January 2011)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Current Exchange Rate	R/\$ 7.05	R/€ 9.67	R/£ 11.23
Last Week:	R/\$ 7.02	R/€ 9.48	R/£ 11.19
Last Year:	R/\$ 7.59	R/€ 10.68	R/£ 12.27

[www.oanda.com/currency/converter]

Australia's Coles supermarkets slammed over 'local' labels for imported fruit

An Australian state government has slammed supermarket chain Coles for allegedly labeling imported fruits as local, reported national newspaper The Australian. The report said the New South Wales (NSW) government has given Coles a warning after allegations it labeled fruits such as Israeli Jaffa red grapefruits as 'local'.

[Freshfruitportal.com; 28 January 2011]

Argentina's citrus growers worried about drought effects

A lack of rain has citrus growers in Argentina worried about the size of fruit this coming season, according to local news website Analisis Digital. "We are watching with much worry the development of the production, because the rain was uneven and there are areas that were affected a lot," Elbio Calgaro, spokesman for the Citrus Federation of Entre Ríos, is quoted as saying. "The fruit might not have the optimal market size." The drought in the Entre Ríos and Corrientes provinces in northeastern Argentina won't influence prices, Calgaro said. The prices "will be determined by the harvest and the market," he said, according to the website. Entre Ríos and Corrientes produce 75% of mandarins and 60% of oranges for the whole country, according to the website. In 2009, exports of oranges and mandarins were cut considerably because of low quality, a result of drought, the website said.

[Freshfruitportal.com; 26 January 2011]

EU: "Difficult supply Florida grapefruits"

This season of Florida grapefruits is one of the most difficult ones ever. This is according to a Dutch trader. "The grapefruit are only arriving in small quantities as a result of the frost and also of the so-called citrus canker, which cause a lot of fruit to be lost. The weather has been dry and as a result the grapefruit had a difficult growth process. Consequently only a few large sizes are available. Only about twenty or thirty percent of the normal volume is being received. Especially large sizes are scarce and it is likely to remain like that. The European market for small sizes is not very big, which means that large grapefruit being sold for as much as 21/22 euro. There is also grapefruit from Spain, Turkey and Israel available on the market, but according to the trader the taste cannot be compared to that of grapefruit from Florida...Importing and marketing of Florida grapefruit is becoming more and more difficult"

[www.freshplaza.com; 17 January 2011]

Spain: Citrus campaign affected by the cold weather

In Spain, big losses were generated in the 2010/2011 citrus campaign, due to the frosts. The damage caused by the cold affected about 5% of the 288,989 hectares of citrus cultivation. According to Intercitrus, the production that usually is assured is the one to suffer with the frosts.

[www.freshplaza.com; 17 January 2011]

US (FL): Citrus root signals produce better biocontrol

Substances released into the soil by citrus tree roots when chewed on by insect pests could lead to new ways of improving the effectiveness of roundworm "first responders." That's the implication of studies by a team of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and University of Florida (UF) scientists who identified several citrus chemicals, including terpenes, which attract *Steinernema riobrave*, *Heterorhabditis indica* and other beneficial nematode species that prey on citrus root weevils. Upon encountering the weevil's grub-like larvae, the nematodes wriggle inside and feed on the pests internally, killing them 24-48 hours later. The nematodes' reduction of grub numbers can range from 0 to 90 percent, depending on soil type, temperature and other factors. Until recently, little attention has been paid to the complex chemical tete-a-tete that occurs between citrus roots, feeding grubs and the soil's resident nematodes....Eventually, the team hopes to recommend rootstock-nematode combinations that can be used in an integrated approach to managing the pest.

[physorg.com; 24 January 2011]

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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