

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (05/2011)

John Edmonds (16 February 2011)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Current Exchange Rate	R/\$ 7.19	R/€ 9.88	R/£ 11.63
Last Week:	R/\$ 7.05	R/€ 9.67	R/£ 11.23
Last Year:	R/\$ 7.46	R/€ 10.41	R/£ 11.92

[www.oanda.com/currency/converter]

Uruguay drought leads to smaller citrus fruits

Uruguay's citrus fruits will likely be smaller this season due to drought but the country's National Agricultural Investigation Institute (INIA) says they will taste better... "Until December there were good rains, so fruit formation has been good; the dry is affecting the time of growth, so the first thing you realize is that fruit size can be affected," Otero was quoted as saying. Otero told the newspaper that the lack of water has led to the wilting and drying of leaves on citrus plants, but the upside is that farmers end up with more solid and tastier fruits that also have fewer sanitation problems.

[freshfruitportal.com; 14 February 2011]

UK: Citrus imports latest to be hit by Egyptian crisis

Shipments of Egyptian citrus are being delayed by the turmoil in the country at the moment. The major shippers are saying that services are continuing but in a depleted capacity. Some of the Egyptian ports remain closed. An Egyptian exporter said his packing houses were at a standstill, the stores were full of produce but no one was willing to take the risk of transporting goods via road. He foresees a lot of the fresh produce being spoiled in storage. Prag Mistry from Fruitmann, an importer of citrus mainly for the UK juicing industry said that there have been no arrivals from Egypt this week. He added that although this is not a major problem at the moment if the situation continues then importers of Egyptian produce will not be able to fulfil orders to customers.

[freshplaza.com; 7 February 2011]

Pakistan: 125,000 tonnes of oranges exported

Pakistan has exported over 125,000 tonnes of oranges worth \$ 75 million to eastern Europe, the Gulf and other countries...over 125,000 tonne Pakistani kinno had been exported to Russia, Iran, Ukraine, eastern Europe, Far east, Gulf and Sri Lanka...2 million tonne kinno was produced in the country and 80% was produced at district Sargodha.

[pakobserver.net; 10 February 2011]

Mexico send more than 650,000 tons of limes to US and EU

The state of Veracruz exports to the United States and Europe more than 650,000 tons of limes... contributing 60% of the nation's production.

[Lapolitica; 9 February 2011]

USDA reduces Florida orange estimate

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released its February orange crop forecast for the 2010-2011 season, reducing its earlier estimate by 2 million boxes to 138 million boxes. "We continue to see the effects of the freeze events that hit Florida citrus in December as well as smaller fruit sizes," said Michael W. Sparks, executive VP/CEO of Florida Citrus Mutual... The USDA estimate for grapefruit remained unchanged at 19.6 million boxes. The forecast for early and midseason varieties in Florida shrunk by 1 million to 66 million while the projection for Valencias also decreased by 1 million boxes to 72 million boxes this season. For Florida specialty fruit, the USDA's tangelo estimate remained unchanged at 1 million boxes, while the tangerine forecast was increased by 200,000 boxes to 4.4 million.

[www.freshplaza.com; 10 February 2011]

AU: Black spot hampers lemon crop

A citrus grower in the Northern Territory say he's generally happy with how the lemon harvest is progressing, but a fungal disease is keeping prices down. The fruit from the Sevenfields plantation at Katherine, which is sent to Perth and Melbourne, also has to compete with cheaper imports. But despite the setbacks, marketing manager Brett Jackson says crop yields have been encouraging. We've seen a little bit of a fungal disease called black spot. It just leaves a little bit of marking on the skin, he said. It's not really, I guess, much of a problem. It just impacts on the aesthetics of the fruit and can cause a lower price on the wholesale markets.

[abc.net.au; 4 February 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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