

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (06/2011)

John Edmonds (25 February 2011)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Current Exchange Rate	R/\$ 7.09	R/€ 9.74	R/£ 11.46
Last Week:	R/\$ 7.22	R/€ 9.79	R/£ 11.64
Last Year:	R/\$ 7.76	R/€ 10.51	R/£ 11.96

[www.oanda.com/currency/converter]

Brazil's orange seed demand skyrockets

High orange prices have led Brazilian farmers to renew their orchards, with one company reporting a 12-month waiting list for seedlings, reported news agency Emissoras Pioneiras de Televisão (EPTV). Rafael de Oliveira from nursery Rio Claro told EPTV that Brazilian farmers would need to have patience, with so many orange seedlings in demand. "(It can take) At least 11 to 12 months. There's practically no more changes in the market for delivery," he said. The story reported the São Paulo Agricultural Defense Coordinator expected nurseries to sell between 10 million and 11 million seedlings this year. Orange orchards usually perform well after five years, extending to 12 years before crop performance starts to decline, the story reported.

[www.freshfruitportal.com; 25 February 2011]

US (FL): Legislation would provide \$30 million for citrus research over 5 years

Bill Nelson said he will reintroduce legislation that would provide up to \$30 million a year over the next five years for citrus research, particularly targeted at battling the deadly citrus greening disease.

"We are going to file the bill in the next couple of weeks," Nelson told The Ledger Wednesday morning before he addressed a private meeting of about 50 top Florida citrus officials at The Terrace Hotel in Lakeland. "The purpose is to create a continuous source of money for the research for finding a cure for greening that otherwise is going to kill the citrus industry." ...

"This is by far our highest priority issue in Washington, D.C.," Sparks said after the meeting. "I would argue this is the most important legislation Florida Citrus Mutual has advanced in Washington."

[www.freshplaza.com; 24 February 2011]

Mexico: Citrus fruit exports to Japan will increase

Mexico will raise its citrus fruit exports to Japan between 2012 and 2016 as part of the talks between the authorities from both countries. According to a statement from the Mexican Secretary of Agriculture, Live-stock, Rural Development, Fishing and Food (Sagarpa), businessmen, importers and workers of the Asian nation got together with Francisco Mayorga, with the objective of raising the commercial exchange. Regarding citrus fruit, they agreed on increasing orange sales from 4,000 tons to 4,100 in 2012; orange juice from 6,500 to 6,800 in the same period;

[Prensa-latina; 24 February 2011]

Egypt: Exports Recover

Citrus exporter Fresh Plus is grateful that the situation in Egypt is getting better after the Egyptian people protested for President Mubarak to step down. "Fresh Plus ceased business for eighteen days when the banks and shipping lines were closed... Rana added that during the protest, they had to leave the citrus farms without finishing the harvest and packing the citrus. When they were allowed to work again, some citrus fruit was not suitable for export any more. Lemons, mandarins and grapefruit were soft which made unsuitable for export. "The shelf life of these products became shorter, we ended up selling these citrus to the domestic market," said Rana. She also added that Fresh Plus lost an estimated 15% sales during the protest.

[www.freshplaza.com; 24 February 2011]

Spain: Frost burns hectares of citrus fruit

Unió complained that the autonomous government of Valencia is forgetting the affected farmers. The on going frosts during December and January not only originated serious losses in the orange, mandarin and all kind of season vegetables, but also damaged the citrus fruit plantations in many areas...the icy temperatures, with values going lower than 6° or 7° degrees below zero, for several hours and in several occasions, for two months... the trees that are seriously damaged will not produce much in the next season, or they will not produce at all, because they will have to start to generate new branches and leaves.

[Lasprovincias; 24 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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