

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (10/2011)

John Edmonds (25 March 2011)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Current Exchange Rate	R/\$ 6.90	R/€ 9.75	R/£ 11.18
Last Week:	R/\$ 7.10	R/€ 9.52	R/£ 11.41
Last Year:	R/\$ 7.36	R/€ 9.84	R/£ 10.98

[www.oanda.com/currency/converter]

New Mexican wasp prevents citrus greening disease

Scientists in the north-west Mexican state of Sonora have found a new breed of wasp that controls the spread of Huanglongbing (HLB), otherwise known as 'citrus greening disease', reported Expreso.com.mx. The wasp 'Cheyenne' was bred in a farming experiment in the Yaqui Valley and is now available for farmers from the local Plant Sanitation Board, the story reported. The Cheyenne wasp helps prevent the spread of citrus greening by eating the insect that causes it, while also laying parasitic eggs in the area where the pest breeds, reported Expreso.com.mx. Elsewhere in Mexico, the Tamaulipas State Plant Sanitation Committee has pledged US\$2.75 million (33 million Mexican pesos) to combat greening disease over the next nine months, reported Tiempoahora.net. He told the newspaper the disease has become a very strong threat to citrus growers in the state, but the amount of resources available to combat the problem continues to fall.

[www.freshfruitportal.com; 25th March 2011]

Spain: Citrus exports to Russia triples and improves 26% to US

Spanish citrus exports in the present campaign presents a clear improvement regarding the previous one concerning the shipments destined to third party countries (outside the European Union) by shipping a total of 162,518 tons until 12th of March, which meant an increase of 27% by comparison with the same period last season...Clementine's campaign evolution was spectacular with Russia, since it registered a growth of 200% when reaching 33,134 tons - an historical amount. Moreover, in the United States, shipments of clementine elevated to 61,247, meaning a 26% growth. Other destinations are highlighted in the march for the orange campaign, like Brazil. With 7,051 tons it doubles the amount of 2009/2010. Moreover, the United Arab Emirates is another market to count on, since it reached the 3,042 tons - three times more than last year. In Europe, Switzerland consolidates as a reference point by importing 47,732 tons of Spanish citrus, just about the same number of one year before. Citrus export evolution was marked by the frosts of December and January, which damaged most early varieties of mandarin. According to agricultural organizations the reduction in production will be considerable during the 2011/2012 journey, in the fields of the Valencia community.

[FreshPlaza.com; 24 March 2011]

Ord grapefruit plantation delays entry to Japanese market

The managers of Australia's largest red grapefruit plantation have scrapped plans to export produce to Japan because of quality issues. The lucrative Japanese market was opened to Australian producers last year, and it was expected fruit from Western Australia's Ord Valley would be sent there in the coming months. But Ord plantation manager Lachlan Dobson says those plans have been shelved because of concerns about their spray program. 'We've decided that we don't want to send any fruit of inferior quality to Japan,' he said. 'We've had difficulty this year with a fungicide program, and whilst we know it'll be all right for the domestic market, we're not sure how it would go in Japan.' 'So rather than jeopardise our reputation on our first step into that market, we've decided that we'd leave it and have a go next year. There could well be other Australian producers who send fruit to Japan and make the most of that new market, but it won't be us doing it.' The giant plantation in the Ord Valley has been in the hands of receivers following the collapse of the managed investment company Rewards Group. This year's harvest is going ahead as planned, although Mr Dobson says all of the picking and packing is being done using borrowed equipment from other growers in the Ord Valley.

[abc.net.au; 23 March 2011]

Argentina: Lemon world trade would grow by 7%

In a report about citrus trade, the USDA notes that global production of oranges for the 2010/2011 campaign will reach 51.4 million tons, while world trade will move nearly 4 million tons... grapefruit production... will be 5.2 million tons, 5% lower than last season due to lower harvest in China...lemon, the USDA says that world production will be of 6.3 million tons, 7% up on the previous season, with Argentina and the U.S. as main countries.

[La Gaceta; 22 March 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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