

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (11/2011)

John Edmonds (1 April 2011)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Current Exchange Rate	R/\$ 6.79	R/€ 9.62	R/£ 10.91
Last Week:	R/\$ 6.90	R/€ 9.75	R/£ 11.18
Last Year:	R/\$ 7.31	R/€ 9.86	R/£ 11.07

[www.oanda.com/currency/converter]

Shaffe-Freshfel Citrus Unveils Southern Hemisphere Citrus Production & Export Forecasts 2011

According to the data released by Freshfel Europe and SHAFPE, the citrus production in the Southern Hemisphere countries included in the survey should reach for 2011 a level of 6,496 million tonnes, a decrease of 0,63% compared to last year, being also 7,74% below the long term average of the years 2003 to 2010. Exports to all destinations are also reported to decline this year by 2,64% to reach 2.334.997 T.

The total SH production of citrus is due to reach 6.496.000 T. Given the early stage of the forecast, it has to be noted that these figures might still evolve in the course of the season. Australia will experience a recovery of +18,5% at 600.000 T. Both Argentina and Chile will experience a moderate growth compared to last year of ca. +2% at 2.040.000 T and 522.000 T respectively. Other Southern Hemisphere countries are reporting a lower crop: South Africa will be down by 4,3% at 2.157.000 T, but will however remain the single largest SH citrus producing country. Peru will also face a lower crop by 6,1% at 854.000 T. Uruguay still has just provisional data available but might have a production decrease by 8,8% compared to last year, being now at 323.000 T. On an aggregate Southern Hemisphere basis, the production of oranges and mandarins are both expected to decrease by around 9%, while lemon and grapefruit production are both expected to increase significantly in comparison to last year by 18% and 12% respectively. Regarding Southern Hemisphere exports of citrus fruit from SHAFPE countries for the coming season, exports are forecasted to decrease by 2,64% when compared to 2010. This is however up by 3,2% over the long term average (2003-2010). For individual categories of citrus, exports of oranges and mandarins are forecasted to experience a decrease by 8,5% and 6,2% respectively to last year's peak export level. Total exports of oranges will amount to 1.273.000 T, influenced by the lower export figure from South Africa (-11%). Soft citrus exports are reported to reach 370.000 T. Lemons and grapefruit should both register higher levels of export by 11% and 16% respectively. Lemon exports should reach 460.000 T, influenced by a higher export volume from Argentina. Grapefruit exports should stand at 230.000 T

[Shaffe/Freshfel; 31th March 2011]

AU: Citrus chairman says fruit picking plan would struggle

The Chairman of Riverina Citrus said a plan by Tony Abbott to send welfare recipients to pick fruit at harvest time, would struggle. The Opposition Leader, yesterday suggested people of the dole travel to areas where unskilled work is available. Riverina Citrus Chairman Frank Battistel said that sort of program could become a headache for growers at harvest, when they need to get fruit off trees quickly. He said, picking oranges can be harder than it looks... Mr Battistel said fruit picking is hard, labour intensive work and said it can be difficult to retain workers..."We become mothers, basically trying to get them to make a living off something they probably don't want to do anyway," he said.

[Source: abc.net.au; 1April 2011]

South African citrus sets sail for Europe

The South African citrus harvest is under way with the first shipments of satsumas already on the water. Cronje Scheepers from Cape Citrus said the harvesting of satsumas has started from the Eastern Cape already and from the Western Cape it started in week 12. "The internal quality and volume is good although sizes from Western Cape are a bit smaller than usual for Satsumas. The brix level is good at 10.2 with good ratio also." The lemon harvest is getting under way from Eastern Cape and will be followed at the end of April with Clementines and Star Ruby grapefruit from the Northern Province. The first shipment of satsumas is expected in the UK in week 14/15; this also goes for Europe and the Middle East. Satsuma prices in the Middle East are looking positive but could be more difficult for lemons due to the fact that the Middle Eastern lemon market has been supplied by Egypt, Turkey and Spain this year. As for the UK and Europe the South African citrus will be heading into a market which still has Northern Hemisphere citrus but prices

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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