GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (13/2011)

John Edmonds (8 April 2011)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Current Exchange Rate	R/$ 6.68	R/€ 9.55	R/£ 10.89
Last Week:	R/$ 6.79	R/€ 9.62	R/£ 10.91
Last Year:	R/$ 7.24	R/€ 9.69	R/£ 11.03

[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).The story reported the São Paulo Agricultural Defense Coordinator expected nurseries to sell between 10 million and 11 million seedlings this year.
[www.freshfruitportal.com; 25 February 2011]

AU: Eased protocols make citrus exports to US easier

Citrus exporters in fruit fly affected regions will be subject to less stringent protocols, when cold-treating their fruit for export. Major importer of Australian citrus, the United States, has agreed to take fruit that has been cold-treated at warmer temperatures, for shorter periods of time. Chief executive officer of Citrus Australia, Judith Damiani, says it will mean the fruit reaching US shores will be better quality. "We're quite pleased that we are getting better recognition for our research and we are getting better access to some of our markets," she said. "It does prevent chilling injury, it does lower the risk for those areas that do have to cold-treat."
[www.abc.net.au; 5 April 2011]

Lemon workers block Argentine roads

Workers in the world's largest lemon-growing region of Tucumán have blocked roads across seven different sectors demanding better wages, website Tucumanalas7.com.ar reported. The demonstrators are affiliated with the Argentine Rural and Dock Workers Union (UATRE), blocking roads after an agreement failed to be reached with the Tucumán Citrus Association (ATC), the story reported. Commissioner Jorge Racedo said provincial and national routes in the eastern part of the province were in chaos, including routes 304, 312, 302 and 157, the story reported. “Every 40 minutes they are opening to decompress the way. There are no alternative routes because all routes are cut,” he was quoted as saying.
[www.freshfruitportal.com; 8 April 2011]

Chile's citrus exports to fall 12% in 2011

Water scarcity will likely cut back Chile's citrus exports by 12% to 111,514 metric tons (MT) this season, with the sharpest fall in volumes expected for mandarins, according to market researcher iQonsulting…As of Mar. 1 it was expected the South American country would export 47,403MT (-10%) of oranges, 25,165MT (-13%) of mandarins and 38,973MT (-13%) of lemons this season. The drop in lemon export estimates is the biggest fall in volume terms, representing less 6,109MT than 2010 season figures. “The most dramatic cases of no production will occur with lemon growers in the sectors of Cabildo and Petorca, where (trees) have been pruned to avoid plant deaths due to a lack of water. These trees will have to be formed again for future production,” the iQonsulting report said. The figures released in the report run in contrast to a Southern Hemisphere citrus forecast by Freshfel Europe and SHAFFE, which stated Chile's citrus industry would likely experience modest growth of 2% this season.
[www.freshfruitportal.com; 4 April 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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