

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (14/2011)

John Edmonds (15 April 2011)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Current Exchange Rate	R/\$ 6.82	R/€ 9.85	R/£ 11.12
Last Week:	R/\$ 6.68	R/€ 9.55	R/£ 10.89
Last Year:	R/\$ 7.28	R/€ 9.94	R/£ 11.25

[www.oanda.com/currency/converter/]

Argentina: First ship of lemon to Russia this month

Shipments are being prepared for Russia. It's estimated that the first shipment with citrus from Tucuman will depart mid April. The Citrus Association from Tucuman (ATC) estimates that lemon production could reach the 1,200,000 tons, some 26% more than the 950,000 tons from last year. "Expectancy is prudent, mainly because we're waiting on more response from the European market, which will happen later on", said Roberto Sánchez Loria, from ATC, to the newspaper "La Gaceta", underlining that the fruit harvested is for the industry and to send to Russia, usually the first destination for this lemon. "Starting harvest helps plants and trees that were loaded with lemons because there's a lot of fruit", Sánchez Loria mentioned. First it was established that on the 9th of this month the first ship would leave with Argentinian lemons to Russia, but in the citrus sector was mentioned yesterday the possibility of such shipment happening on the 15th. Anyway, market conditions are not favouring the entrance of fruit from Tucuman because fruit from Spain, South Africa and Turkey is still being marketed. Last year, by the beginning of the citrus campaign an 18 kilo box of lemons received US\$17, while now they're offering just US\$15.

[Lagaceta; 8 April 2011]

Asian citrus psyllid found in California

Reports of an Asian citrus psyllid in a residential area of Ventura County, Calif., have local, regional and state officials on high alert. The county has been under quarantine all year because of the pests. The pest, found the week of April 4, triggered a standard testing/trapping response from the California Department of Food and Agriculture during the weekend of April 9-10, according to multiple media reports and a spokeswoman at the California Citrus Research Board. Joel Nelsen, president of Exeter-based California Citrus Mutual, said the only way the state will be able to avoid the devastation that Florida citrus producers suffered when the psyllid's invaded their state is a rapid response mentality... The Asian citrus psyllid is responsible for spreading huanglongbing disease, commonly known as citrus greening in this country and as yellow dragon disease in Mexico and Asia. The disease decimated Florida's citrus groves beginning in the late 1990s and is working its way through Mexico. Some agriculture researchers and citrus growers in Mexico have been working with a species of wasp as a possible way to eradicate the Asian citrus psyllids, but Nelsen said that option has been discussed and dismissed in California. He said part of the problem is that the wasps' reproduction cycle isn't nearly as fast as the psyllids'.

[thepacker.com; 12 April 2011]

Argentina: Workers and citrus sector reach an agreement

Workers and management reached an agreement. The Argentinian Union of Rural and Stevedore Workers (UATRE) and the Tucumán Association of Citrus (ATC) reached a salary agreement with a 30% rise for harvesting. This way, the citrus campaign will go as usual, after the recognition of daily payment as UATRE wished. It was UATRE that finalised the details of the negotiations in the headquarters of the company. The daily payment for the rural workers is set at 106.70 pesos added by a single fixed amount of 195 pesos.

[atcitrus; 13 April 2011]

Ned: Trade in mandarins growing considerably faster than in oranges

The largest production countries of citrus fruit are in America and Asia. China is the country, where in the last couple of years the production of various kinds of citrus fruit has increased strongest. Another development is that the trading in mandarins, of whom China is the largest producer, grew considerably stronger than the trading in oranges... Oranges and mandarins are numbers 2 and 4 on the list of fruit in the Netherlands,... The purchase per household of oranges decreased over the last few years. The mandarins did somewhat better than the oranges. The percentage of Dutch households purchasing grapefruit decreased from 17% to 14% during the period from 2005 - 2010 and the quantity bought decreased from 1,5 kg to 1,0 kg per household.

[www.tuinbouw.nl; 12 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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