

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (19/2011)

John Edmonds (27 May 2011)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Current Exchange Rate	R/\$ 6.99	R/€ 9.88	R/£ 11.41
Last Week:	R/\$ 6.89	R/€ 9.83	R/£ 11.14
Last Year:	R/\$ 7.77	R/€ 9.53	R/£ 11.18

[www.oanda.com/currency/converter]

Argentina: Will increase the quota for citrus exported to Russia

Agriculture Minister, Julián Domínguez, said last Monday in Moscow that the agreements with the Russian Federation opened "an extraordinary setting", especially for the agribusiness sector. The quota of citrus shipped to that country could increase. "In yesterday's the meetings, Argentina raised differentiated tariffs and increases in exports of poultry meat and of the production of twelve regional economies", said Domínguez to Télam at the Russian Palace of Receptions. According to the head of the agricultural portfolio, after signing the agreements "an extraordinary setting will be opened", with possible "increases in the quota of citrus, including lemons, also pears, apples, wine and table grapes", he explained.

[Freshplaza.com; 26 May 2011]

The bitter taste in grapefruits, could potentially be used in the treatment of diabetes

A little bitter with a little sweet, in the form of a nano-complex dietary supplement taken before meals, can result in a substantial reduction of fat and sugar absorption in the body, Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Harvard University researchers have found... What the researchers found is that a single dose of this complex, taken just before a high fat and high sugar meal given to rats, was able to reduce the generation of VLDL (bad cholesterol) by 42%, and increase insulin sensitivity by 64%. This is the first demonstration that a dietary supplement can change the way our body can react beneficially to a meal. "The complex is special in that it is taken just before a meal, as a preventative measure. In comparison, existing medications are given only after the chronic development of abnormal lipid levels in the blood," The scientists said that considering the sugary taste of cyclodextrin, naringenin, the cause of the bitter taste in grapefruit, is "no longer such a bitter pill to swallow."

[Freshplaza.com; 24 May 2011]

HLB disease could affect 60% of Mexico's citrus industry

Mexico's agricultural sanitary service has announced Huanlongbing (HLB), or 'citrus greening disease', could affect 60% of the country's citrus plantations if action is not taken, website Imagenagropecuaria.com reported.

The National Sanitary Service of Food Safety and Quality (SENASICA) said the disease spread quietly through insects and could damage 330,000 hectares of Mexico's citrus crops, the story reported. SENASICA director Enrique Sánchez Cruz told the website the disease was transmitted by the insect *Diaphorina citri* and couldn't be detected quickly, eventually blocking circulation and depriving fruits and leaves of nutrients, leading to deformation. "If we don't do anything 60% of citriculture could be affected. That's a lot," he was quoted as saying. SENASICA figures show the country's citrus industry is worth up to 10 billion Mexican pesos (US\$862 million) annually, with 549,000 hectares of cultivation that provides employment for 70,000 farmers. The service has invested 238 million Mexican pesos (US\$20.5 million) to fight the disease over the last three years.

[freshfruitportal.co; 27 Apr 2011]

Chile tops industry success survey

Chile has been ranked as the most successful fruit exporting nation in a new study carried out by Promar International for the European policy institute CEPS. The study, which covered four major product categories and six of the world's largest exporters of fruit over the last three-year period, identified Chile as the leader of the pack, based on several predetermined success factors. The analysis looked at "controllable" and "non-controllable" factors contributing to an industry's success. The non-controllable factors included issues such as natural resources, exchange rates and where on the product life cycle each country finds itself with each category. CEPS also identified a factor termed Global Production Development Lifecycle, and analysed globalisation, the growth of supermarkets and the move of production towards lowest cost production regions in recent years... The study – 'Comparative experiences of the fresh produce sector' – was compiled by leading agri-food consulting company Promar International for the European policy institute CEPS. It surveyed the success of Chile, France, Italy, South Africa, New Zealand and the USA in the apple, orange, peach and kiwifruit categories over the last three years... the full ranking table was: Chile +4.3; South Africa +3.3; USA +2.7; New Zealand +2.0; Italy +1.0; France -2.7

[www.freshplaza.com; 27 May 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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