

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (23/2011)

John Edmonds (24 June 2011)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Current Exchange Rate	R/\$ 6.82	R/€ 9.71	R/£ 10.91
Last Week:	R/\$ 6.85	R/€ 9.69	R/£ 11.07
Last Year:	R/\$ 7.55	R/€ 9.27	R/£ 11.24

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

S Africa: Citrus farmers support the Walmart deal

A new front has opened in the battle over the Walmart-Massmart R16.5bn deal, with a group of citrus farmers objecting to plans by Cosatu to embark on mass action against the deal. A South African group of farmers who claim to have combined exports exceeding R1bn and who provide a livelihood for more than 100 000 people said on Thursday that they were disappointed at Cosatu's threat of mass action against Walmart's takeover of the Massmart chain. "We are upset about the type of treatment Walmart is getting from an organisation such as Cosatu after their recent take-over of the South African Massmart group of retail outlets," said Gerrit van der Merwe, chairperson of the Western Cape Citrus Producers Forum, which represents about 350 citrus growers. He said the citrus industry's business with Walmart and its Asda chain had been pivotal in financing 12 BEE projects for their members, among the most successful in the country. "Threatening mass action, which smacks of violence and disorder, is a bad reflection on our country," Van der Merwe said. This statement drew a strong reaction from the South Africa's Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers Union (Saccawu), an affiliate to Cosatu. "What authority does this group of farmers have to determine the fairness of the tribunal's decision?" asked Saccawu's Lucas Ramatlhodi. Van der Merwe said the group had been doing business with Walmart in the USA and the UK for the last five years. "As a supplier we found Walmart to be an excellent client and we were always treated well. Our business with them has been growing year on year, at the expense of our competitors in South America," he said.

[thenewage.co.za; 20 June 2011]

Chile: Dangerous citrus disease debated at the FAO

Researchers from 17 countries of the region and the U.S. seek a joint management plan in the FAO. International experts are meeting at the FAO Regional Office in Santiago of Chile, to analyze the situation of HLB in the region and propose an action plan to address it. This is the most destructive citrus disease worldwide and has caused economic losses of tens of millions of dollars around the world, in Brazil alone it is estimated that 10 million of infected trees have been eliminated. In Mexico, the disease has been detected in 39% of the citrus producing states. "It's a disease that respects no international boundaries, so we must confront it together at continental level", said Alan Bojanic, Officer in Charge of the FAO Regional Office...For four days, from May 20th to Thursday June 23th, high level researchers and plant protection authorities and representatives of the citrus industry throughout the region will meet in the Regional Office of the Organization of the United Nations for Agriculture and Food (FAO) in Santiago of Chile, to discuss the state of the disease in different countries of Latin America and the United States. The meeting will be attended by representatives of 27 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and also the U.S., and one of its objectives is to establish the outlook of the disease, to analyze management cases and to generate a joint action plan to address this serious threat to citrus production.

[Diariodigital; 23 June 2011]

US: Season's first shipment of South African Summer Citrus arrives

The first 2011 shipment of South African summer citrus arrived in Philadelphia aboard the Cape Belle today. South African Summer Citrus is increasingly finding favor among consumers every year due to its excellent nutritional quality and delicious taste. It marks the first of twelve shipments scheduled for arrival in the U.S. at approximately 10 day intervals until late October. South African citrus exports to the U.S. include Clementines, Navels, Midnights (a Valencia varietal), and Star Ruby grapefruit, which were introduced to the U.S. in the 2010 season for the first time...Since 1999, shipments of South African summer citrus fruits have increased from 50 tons to about 41,000 tons shipped last year. It is expected that 2011 shipments at a similar level to last year. The fruit is sold at many national, regional and specialty supermarkets and club stores throughout the country. Locally the fruit is available at many chains, including Whole Foods, WalMart, Wegmans, Acme, Giant, Genuardi's, Costco, Sam's Club, and BJ's. "The U.S. markets are extremely important to South African summer citrus growers," says Suhanra Conradie, CEO of the Western Cape Citrus Producers Forum (WCCPF), a consortium of 350 South African growers approved to export summer citrus to the U.S. "We are proud of our growers and they are proud of the fruit they grow. They continue to meet the increasing demand for South African citrus products while adhering to the strict governmental guidelines for quality and safety. South African citrus growers have developed a reputation for providing some of the finest citrus products in the world."

[www.summercitrus.com; 20 June 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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