GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (24/2011)

John Edmonds (1 July 2011) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Current Exchange Rate	R/$ 6.78	R/€ 9.80	R/£ 10.88
Last Week:	R/$ 6.82	R/€ 9.71	R/£ 10.91
Last Year:	R/$ 7.64	R/€ 9.36	R/£ 11.46

[www.oanda.com/currency/converter]

AU: Mealybugs mangle Riverland citrus

An infestation of mealybugs in the South Australia's Riverland has led to citrus producers receiving their lowest prices in several years. Up to 80 per cent of oranges destined for Japan and India have been rejected due to the pest, contributing to an oversupply on the domestic market. Managing director of Nippy's packaging and processing centre at Waikerie, Jeff Knispel, says mealybug numbers are among the highest he's ever seen. "Last year we were probably running at about 10 per cent rejection and this year it's probably getting close to the flip side of that," he said. "It's got to be so disruptive. You get to the stage where you think I'm just going to have to exclude this shed and the group of growers we've got from this market."
[abc.net.au; 29 June 2011]

US citrus market report

Through Week 24, **Chilean clementines** continued to dominate the US soft citrus market, complemented by light volumes from Peru. In mid Week 25, the first **South African** vessel arrived at Philadelphia and added over 1 186 pallets of clementines to the east coast offerings. Chilean exporters have, through June 19, loaded 6 364 metric tons of clementines to the US east coast and 3 404 to the west coast for a total 9 767 metric tons or 1.9% more than the volume shipped over the same period last season. But the clementine market has continued to exhibit good stability and firm prices on the back of manageable supplies in the market and good uptake by retailers. Nevertheless, with the combined effect of a supply pipeline that has now been filled and the arrival of more competitive fruit, in Week 25, the clementine price spectrum has broadened giving it a slightly softer low-end. As well, fixed programs are increasingly being supplied at prices which can run below the spot market for uncommitted fruit. Through Week 25, prices for size 3 and larger clementines in 10 x 3 lbs and 15 x 2 lbs configurations were selling between US$ 32-36. This is generating a selling price range for the original 15 kg carton (net of re-pack costs and materials) of US$ 28-32 (re-pack losses depending). Size 4 clementines are generating prices only marginally softer than the size 3…
The **California navel** season is coming to an end with regular navels finished and late navels likely to continue through the first or second week of July. This is not especially worrisome as California late navels often share the market with early imports and this season the California crop is not expected to overlap with imports as dramatically as it did last season. In Week 25, the first 1 314 pallets of **South African navel** oranges arrived at Philadelphia aboard the Cape Belle. **Chilean navel** oranges will begin to arrive in light volume on the east and west coast in Week 26 and the first **Australian navels** will hit the west coast in the first days of July. Opening prices for imported navel oranges off the east coast are: 40's, 48's and 56's at US$ 28-30, 64's at US$26-28, 72's at 24-26 and 88's at US$22-24. At these prices, there will be little promotional activity and movement will be moderate. Movement will improve as greater volumes arrive and as domestic citrus becomes less of a factor.
[freshplaza.com; 28 June 2011]

Drought hurts shipments of clementines and tangerines from the Southern Hemisphere

Exports of "easy peelers" from the Southern Hemisphere supplying countries will decline by 10% this season compared to last season, totaling about 366,100 tons, reported iQonsulting in its crop report prepared June 17th…the biggest drop in export volumes is recorded by Argentina and Uruguay with 34% and 25% lower, respectively. "This decline is mainly due to problems of water stress that affected much of the orchards in these countries", the report says. Argentina will export about 80,000 tons, while Uruguay will export around 43,100 tons. In the case of Argentina the decline was also due to a reduced flowering per tree. The rest of the providers will experience an increase in their shipments abroad. South Africa will register an increase of 5% amounting to 112,500 tons, while Chile's exports will grow by 15% to 45,500 tons. Peru meanwhile, will increase its shipments by 2% exporting about 60,000 tons, and Australia will provide with 25,000 tons, registering a growth of 9%.
[prochile/portalfruticola; 27 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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