

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (25/2011)

John Edmonds (8 July 2011)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Current Exchange Rate	R/\$ 6.71	R/€ 9.61	R/£ 10.74
Last Week:	R/\$ 6.78	R/€ 9.80	R/£ 10.88
Last Year:	R/\$ 7.64	R/€ 9.63	R/£ 11.57

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

Second cold snap hits Argentine lemon crops

Crops in the world's largest lemon-growing province suffered serious damages from more than 10 hours of frost over the weekend, website Lagaceta.com.ar reported. The Argentine National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INIA) Meteorological Observatory, reported weather box temperatures of -3.5°C (26°F) in Tucumán province's central zone on Saturday morning, while outside a minimum of -8.8°C (16°F) was reached, the story reported. The phenomenon lasted for nine hours on Saturday night, one hour on Sunday, while a low of -2.4°C (28°F) was registered yesterday. Observatory technician Juan Rubén Pedraza, told the website frost damage to crops was accumulative, so longer exposure meant the damage would be much worse. "We must await the outcome of the evaluations, but the experience we have with these types of phenomena is to expect grave damage. To the east of the province the impact will be even worse than in the central zone," Pedraza was quoted as saying... The region also suffered a blizzard in late-June with conditions not seen since 1920.

[www.freshfruitportal.com/; July 5th, 2011]

US: Cold snap in Chile puts summer citrus outlook in question

A cold snap in Chile is leaving summer citrus importers unsure of what they'll be bringing to the states in upcoming weeks. David Mixon, chief marketing officer for Seald Sweet LLC, Vero Beach, Fla., said Chile's citrus-growing areas had an unseasonable cold snap over the July Fourth weekend. Until the industry can measure the damage done to its crop, which can take a week or even 10 days, the forecast of exports to the U.S. is clouded. Mixon said the temperatures recorded there indicate an "extremely high" likelihood of damage to the citrus, but "it's hard to predict how the fruit will react, and there's a lot of variables." Mixon said Chile typically kicks off the summer citrus program in late May with its clementines. Then South Africa starts exporting citrus around the middle of June. Both countries' seasons go through October. Peru — with fewer clementines and navels than those countries but more minneola tangelos — bolsters and diversifies the supply from the end of June through September. Mixon said that while the industry expects less fruit out of South Africa, the fruit has had normal size and the quality has been "exceptional." He said the external color and internal flavor were both strong and brix counts were 1-3 points higher than usual.

[www.thepacker.com 7 July 2011]

South African Navel oranges under pressure in the Middle East

Currently, there are still extremely large volumes of Egyptian Valencia oranges, with 'full orange colour', arriving in the marketplace. This is a completely different situation to past years where the Egyptian fruit would have been finished by June, at the latest. David Pearce, Director at G.F. Marketing South Africa explains, "we can see the effect of the 4 week revolution in Egypt in that all shipments out of Egypt are much later". This factor is dragging down the price of South African Navel oranges, especially the early oranges which have a more yellow colour as a result of 'de-greening' practices as well as 'hail damaged' fruit... This year Ramadan falls in the month of August, the hottest time of the year in the Middle East and with a lot of people away on holiday at this time, David does not reckon that the month of Ramadan will resurrect an already lagging citrus season as previously expected. Much more concerning is news out of Europe and Russia regarding South African oranges... Russia has stopped all future shipments and vessels on the water from South Africa coming in... There are many offers coming out of Europe offering SA Navel oranges at Euro 8.50/7.50 for class 1/2 respectively which is a catastrophe regarding returns... David continues, "Egyptian growers are planting later navel varieties with the aim being to supply oranges all year round into the markets. Our customers are warning us that in 2-3 years, we can expect tough competition from Egypt regarding the sales of early SA Navel oranges".

[www.freshplaza.com/; 8 July 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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