

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (40/2011)

John Edmonds (28 October 2011)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

South Africa's midnight oranges in high demand

South African Midnight Oranges are in such high demand by importers and retail stores across the U.S. that special arrangements had to be made to discharge the vessel in off hours. www.summercitrus.com... "Our importers told us that the stores wanted and needed the fruit as soon as we could get it to them," said Suhanra Conradie, CEO of the Western Cape Citrus Producers Forum (WCCPF). "Fortunately, two more vessels are due in from South Africa in the next two weeks so product will be available to consumers well into November."... Since 1999, shipments of South African summer citrus fruits have increased from 50 tons to about 40,000 tons expected this year. Exports include Clementines, Navel oranges, Midnights and Star Ruby grapefruit.
[freshplaza.com; 26 October 2011]

Mexican region on red alert with HLB citrus tests

Mexican authorities have declared a state of red alert in the Tempoal district of Veracruz state following yet another outbreak of citrus fruit disease Huanglongbing (HLB), website Eluniversal.com.mx reported. They have enforced detection protocols within a 24 mile radius of the first infected orchards... So far the disease has been found in 700 orchards in Tempoal, making Veracruz the 13th state in the country to be affected by the disease, the story reported. National Plant Protection general director Javier Trujillo Arroyo, reassured Veracruz growers the disease would not affect U.S. and Asian exports... He said there was time to halt spread of the disease throughout Veracruz's 200,000 hectares as it takes seven years for symptoms to develop... Arroyo said infected plants would be uprooted and burnt to prevent insects spreading the disease to other crops. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA) said it would be spraying nearly 50,000 hectares of citrus groves.
[www.freshfruitportal.com; 27 October 2011]

Uruguay takes steps towards prodigal U.S. citrus exports

Uruguay's Agricultural Minister Tabaré Aguerre will lead a delegation of citrus farmers visiting the U.S. in the next few weeks, in a bid to renew exports, website Federcitrus.org.ar reported. One of the key aims of the trip is to negotiate a trade and investment framework agreement (TIFA) as a first step towards doing business with the U.S. after a 14-year absence... MGAP figures show that last year Uruguay exported 150,000 metric tons (MT), worth US\$85.7 million with Europe and Russia as the main importers. The country exports nearly half of all its citrus produce which comprises 48% orange, 39% tangerines, 12% lemons and 1% grapefruit.
[www.freshfruitportal.com; 24 October 2011]

FTA between Peru and Thailand take effect in January 2012

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MRE) ratified by a supreme decree published yesterday the protocol that was signed on November 19, 2005 in Busan (Republic of Korea) ...In the case of Thailand, the Early Harvest Protocol has been approved by the lower house of Congress and in the coming weeks it will be voted in the Senate, after several years where it could not be voted on by various political problems in that country... Among the products that will benefit from the protocol are: mango, avocado, tropical fruits, citrus... according to the Peruvian site.
[freshplaza.com; 28 October 2011]

Pakistan: Kinnow smuggling to Iran hurting exports

Smuggling of kinnow to Iran has increased manifolds in the last few years, reducing the legal trade from 2,000 containers to 200 and resulting in a loss of around \$40 million every year to the country, exporters said... Kinnow exports to Iran are likely to face serious problems in the coming seasons if exporters do not comply with Iranian quarantine department's requirement of shipping kinnows in refrigerated containers, said a leading exporter. "The Iranian authorities have demanded kinnow shipments in refrigerated containers, but Pakistani exporters ignoring the condition have shipped the fruit in open trucks..."
[thenews.com.pk 28 October 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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