

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (43/2011)

John Edmonds (25 November 2011)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Spain exports 2,000 tons of Clementines to Russian

The first shipment of citrus this season departed Wednesday for Russia from the Port of Castellón with 2,000 tons of clementines of the variety of "clemenules" bound for the city of Novorossiysk...Anecopp expects to send during the winter season about 3,000 pallets more among them khaki, orange and mandarin to several countries in Eastern Europe...So far, work has begun with the variety of mandarin "clemenules" the citrus fruit that marks the start of the season from Spain to Eastern countries...Anecoop plans to increase its citrus sales in Eastern Europe countries by 8 percent this season. Regarding the marketing of Kaki Persimmon Bouquet in the Russian market, Anecoop also expects sales to grow 15 percent.

[www.freshplaza.com; 24 November 2011]

US (CA): Good quality and quantities expected for California navels

As the navel orange season began in California, early signs indicate a crop with good volumes of fruit. Early reports provided by Sunkist Growers, the leading international supplier of citrus, indicate good supplies of navels. Maturity of the fruit was reported to be running slightly behind last year, but overall harvest volume is similar to last year. Additionally, sizing is smaller than initially estimated. Promotable volumes are expected to be available through Christmas.

[www.freshplaza.com; 23 November 2011]

Europe: "High prices for Florida Grapefruit"

The season for Florida Grapefruit has started well. The large volumes are still to come, but Origin Fruit Direct has had Florida Grapefruit available for almost a month. "Because of rain supply is a little less" says Randolph Aaldijk. The importer tells as well that he has no stock. "Because of the quick sales prices are rather high at the moment." The availability of Florida Grapefruit for the European market has been getting smaller over the last few years. "Because of citrus canker controls are very strict, costing time and money and the local market is rather strong as well all the time" Randolph explains. He says that more and more goes to Asia. Nevertheless we hope to receive more this season than last year...Randolf expects prices to remain high this year. "The large volumes are still to come, but I do not expect the market to be swamped." November is a quiet month, but according to him little will change if in January there is more supply and the market improves. "Unfortunately one can never be sure about this."

[www.freshplaza.com; 23 November 2011]

UK: Limes are weapons, Asda customer told

Catering chef Marisa Zoccolan, pictured, was almost banned from buying two limes from the supermarket giant because they could be classed as a weapon. The 31-year-old popped into the Asda supermarket close to her home in Wallsend, North Tyneside, to pick up a few groceries, including a couple of the offending fruits. But when she tried to pay for them at the self-service checkout, the message "amount exceeded, authorisation required" flashed up, and an assistant told her more than one lime was deemed a weapon . . . because the citric acid could be squirted in someone's eye! "I thought they were taking the pip," said Marisa, 31, a self-employed caterer from Wallsend, "but the assistant told me the same applied to lemons! 'I've heard of supermarkets banning people from buying things before, but this is just crazy. 'I thought she was having a laugh when she came back and told me more than one lime is classed as a weapon. I asked her why. Was it because they can be thrown? But no, it's because they contain citric acid which could be squirted in someone's eyes . . . How ridiculous is that?"

[sundaysun.co.uk ; 23 November 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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