

# GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (4/2012)

John Edmonds (3 February 2012)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

## US (CA): Citrus harvest in full swing

The South Californian citrus harvesting is under way. Many consumers tend to think of citrus fruits as being summer produce, but in California the majority of produce is harvested in Winter or early spring and, next to Florida, the state has the highest citrus yield in the US. What is on offer is diverse to say the least. Blood oranges have been singled out as likely to do very well this season as have grapefruit. The grapefruit rush starts with the Chinese new year, but continues well enough after as people continue to use them to make juices. Tangerines are also being gathered in high quantity this year, as are tangerinos, the tangerine, grapefruit hybrid. Two main lemon varieties are being offered by Californian growers - Lisbon and the sweeter, orange crossed, Meyer.

[agourahills.patch.com; 21 January 2012]

## Morocco will extend easy peeler season

The Moroccan Clementine export started this season 10 days later than the previous year. First deliveries were made by end of October in Canada then in Russia before reaching the EU market. As usual, Moroccan citrus exporters were concentrated on making the first easy peelers available in North America the earliest possible. Now the season has been over since the end of December. "We were short by 4% compared to 2010-2011. We marketed 205,000t. against 213,000t last season. However the market reacted better to our products as the quality was good. We had so little rain during the picking period and that was a positive situation for the fruits, explains Fatiha Charrat, Sales and Marketing Director at Delassus. The Clementine season has been very short. Delassus exported the majority of the volume to Russia, this season they will be exporting 14% less than last season due to the bi-annual production of this variety.

Nadorcott will offer Morocco the opportunity of driving the easy peelers business for a much longer period: 8 months instead of 6 months as before.

[Freshplaza.com; 31 January 2012]

## AU: Queensland mandarin crop down this year

The Gayndah/Mundubbera area's mandarin crop is at the fruit-set stage and peak harvest is six to eight weeks away, but the signs point to a lighter and earlier pick this season. As growers wrap up pruning and move on to thinning out under-sized and damaged fruit, Gayndah and District Fruit Growers Association secretary Judy Shepherd said yields were likely to be lower this season than last year's crop, which was exceptional anyway. Mrs Shepherd said light fruit loads were developing on the domestic variety Imperial mandarin crop while export variety Murcotts, which would be harvested later in the season, seemed to be producing normal levels.

[qcl.farmonline.com.au; 31 January 2012]

## Withdrawal plea for citrus oversupply

The Spanish citrus industry sector is to urge the European Commission to withdraw fruit from the market in order to 'save the season' for producers.

[Reefertrends; 2 February 2012]

## Taiwan: World's largest orange created

Huang Ah-hsien, of the Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute, has developed around 170 different citrus varieties in his career, spanning over 20 years. With retirement looming he planned on one last project that would see him out with a bang. It seems he has succeeded with the creation of the world's largest orange - The King. The King is a result of breeding selected - and secret - Japanese and US orange varieties to create a fruit that, on average weighs 0.6kg. It also has a diameter of 10.5 cm - the average human adult face. The good news though, is that, according to the institute, the fruit also tastes great and has been described as being both sweet and sour.

[inventorspot.com; 30 January 2012]

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](mailto:johne@cga.co.za)

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