

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (5/2012)

John Edmonds (9 March 2012)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

SA gains approval to export to Vietnam again

South African fruit growers will be able to ship to Vietnam again with the prospects of exporting to Cambodia for the first time in the offing. The Vietnamese agricultural department announced the news on its website on Mar. 7 that fruit imports from South Africa were compliant. The Grape Company marketing manager Jurgen Smith said the news was a great opportunity for the fruit industry. "At this stage the South African industry needs all the offsets it can for its fruit. With the European market at the moment being so saturated its good to have other alternatives available."

[www.freshfruitportal.com; 9 March 2012]

US: Citrus volumes hit by frost

The freezing temperatures in California in mid-January have taken a toll on California's citrus crop. The Produce News last week reported that the 2011-12 California navel orange crop (prior to the freeze) had already been estimated to be lighter than 2010- 11's very heavy 93 million case crop. Following the freeze, estimates for the 2011-12 were revised downward to a 75 million case crop, a crop that is said to be generally running small peaking on 88's and 72's. The Produce News went on to say that growers would not harvest as heavily each week and will try to extend their crop into June. Today, large size navels are selling at US\$ 14 for Fancy and US\$ 12.50 for Choice, 72's are selling at US\$ 12.50 for Fancy and US\$ 10 for Choice and 88's are going at US\$ 10 for Fancy and US\$ 8.75 for Choice. The late Mandarin (W. Murcott) crop was affected more dramatically by the freeze. While early estimates suggested that 15-20% of the crop was lost, it appears that the impact may be greater. Today, W. Murcotts are selling at US\$ 31-32 for 10 x 3 lbs (and other 30 lbs value-added packs) for standard sizes 1-2-3 and at US\$ 30 for size 4. It is expected that the late Mandarin crop will be finished before mid-April leaving the shelves clear for early, Southern Hemisphere clementines. This should create great excitement among early clementine growers who will, no doubt, see a lot of interest expressed in their fruit. This is very nice for the growers. Expectations will run high and the auction for early fruit will be no less intense than last season.

Freshplaza.com; 5 March 2010]

FORT PIERCE, Fla. — This year's Florida citrus season is making an early exit.

Grower-shippers say they expect the season, which started nearly a month earlier than usual in the fall, to finish three weeks earlier on most varieties. An earlier spring 2011 bloom accelerated maturities on grapefruit and tangerines. The season, which typically runs through mid- to late May, should end in April on grapefruit and late March on tangerines, said Kevin Swords, Florida citrus sales manager for DNE World Fruit Sales. Late-season valencias...should finish shipments in late May, he said...He said the valencia season is running as normal and buyers should expect plenty of oranges until the season's end, which typically runs through late May...Tangerine shipments typically end in late April.

[www.thepacker.com; 6 March 2012]

Drought reduces lemon volumes in Argentina

The president of the Tucuman Citrus Association (CTA), Roberto Sánchez Loria, referred to this year's production being affected by the drought: "For now, it's not an alarming situation... But the comments in the meetings with CTA confirm that there's less fruit than last year", resumed Sánchez Loria...In the citrus activity, a drop in production is balanced by better prices, since Tucumán, as one of the main world producers of citrus, affects the world values of the fruit. "Maybe this time there's no price balance, since we noticed a "lukewarm" environment in Europe - main destination for tucuman fresh lemon - due to the crisis affecting that continent", added Sánchez Loria, underlining that, despite that, the lemon export business "will not stop because of the European crisis", since this commerce is properly structured. "What was made clear is that it will not affect the quality of the exporting citrus. One of the effects of the drought is the smaller size of the fruit, but that production will be destined for industrial processing", he ended.

[atcitrus; 2 March 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

YOUR LEVY WORKING FOR YOU – GROWER LEVIES ARE USED TO FUND THE ACTIVITIES OF CGA