

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (7/2012)

John Edmonds (23 March 2012)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

SA citrus growers press Durban port operator for streamlined service

South African citrus growers have won a number of assurances from operator Transnet to ensure Durban port upgrades won't hold up shipments too much this season...Exporters fear the upgrades could lead to shipping delays. About 200 citrus representatives recently met port operators, major shipping lines, such as Maersk and Safmarine, to agree on how to manage shipments effectively...The Durban Port upgrades of pier 2 are expected to take five years to complete and are scheduled to start in June. Despite promises by Transnet, CGA chief executive Justin Chadwick is warning exporters to make sure fruit quality can withstand an additional week's shipping time.

[www.freshfruitportal.com; 23 March 2012]

Argentina: Good program and new markets for lemon

The leader from the Tucuman Citrus Association, Roberto Sánchez Loria, said that the drought is forcing up to a month delay on the harvest begin, so this year's harvest is estimated to start mid April...It was assured that the drought incidence in the citrus production was minimal, and that once the fruit gets to the right size to be harvested, a good harvest will start. Sánchez Loria affirmed that every year they manage to reach new markets... entering the US market again, something that, according to him, is close to happening if the advances in the fulfilling of their several health plan requirements are considered...Regarding the crisis over Europe, which are the main destinations for the Tucuman citrus exports today, Sánchez Loria showed was confident that there was no negative effect, based on the commercialization advantages held by the fresh fruit sent to Europe. On the other hand, the leader referred the local production conditions, revealing that despite the minimal expansion of the citrus area, a consistent growth of the industrial side was registered, by the settling of processing plants which production is also demanded... the ATC holder admitted strong rises in the costs of supplies. These factors could condition the chances to achieve positive results. In that sense, he announced efforts made by the national and provincial authorities, in order to boost measures to help improve the activity's profitability, by means of imposing considerations.

[Tucumanalas; 21 March 2012]

US (CA): 28 million boxes projected for Valencia season

The total production of Valencia oranges in California for the 2011-2012 season is projected at 28 million cartons. The estimate is similar to the 2010-2011 season, and although a relatively dry season has raised questions about sizing, average fruit size is on par with previous years. George Thacher, of Friend's Ranch in Ojai, says that they're anticipating a crop similar to ones in previous years. That's in line with estimates from the USDA's Objective Measurement Report (OMR) that projects this season's crop to be slightly higher than last year's. Last year's production was 27 million boxes.

[freshplaza.com; 21 March 2012]

AU: Red grapefruit target Japan

The Western Australian harvest of red grapefruit has commenced and there are expectations of a bumper crop this year, exceeding over 2,000 tonnes. The harvest had been set back a few weeks, because of rain, but according to growers such as Stewart Dobson, the yields and high and the quality is good. "We're looking at 20-plus tonnes per hectare this year which is the best we've produced," he said...He says that 70% of the fruit will be sold on the domestic market, whilst the export targets are China, Taiwan and Japan. This will be the first time that Australia has exported red grapefruit to Japan and it is anticipate that it could become a lucrative market. Market access has been denied up to now because of fruit fly potential, but development of cold disinfectant treatments means that Australia now meets the standards required to export to Japan. The potential is good – Japan imports around 38,000 tonnes of red grapefruit a year currently.

[www.abc.net.au; 21 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
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