GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (10/2012)

John Edmonds (13 April 2012)   Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

USDA mobile app identifies citrus diseases

The USDA's animal and plant health inspection service has released a new application for iPhones and iPads, called Save Our Citrus. The app is designed to make it easier to identify and report the four most significant diseases to affect citrus production - citrus greening, citrus canker, citrus black spot and sweet orange scab. In just a few steps, the Save Our Citrus app, available in English and Spanish, allows individuals to report their symptoms, upload a photo and receive an individual response back from citrus experts specific to the four leading citrus diseases. With the rapid spread of citrus diseases, APHIS staff realized the need to engage residential citrus growers and request their help to keep an eye out for citrus diseases in backyards, orchards, groves and everywhere the diseases pose a threat. The idea is to ensure that, if a disease is discovered quickly in residential areas, it will be easier to prevent its spread to commercial agricultural lands. The app is going to enable more citrus growers to report diseases and get needed information. The Save Our Citrus app is available as a free download on iPhone, iPad and iPod touch mobile devices.
[prweb.com; 12 April 2012]

Argentina: "I have full confidence that limes will return to the U.S."

The Argentinian ambassador to the United States, Jorge Arguello, was optimistic about the outcome of the negotiations to allow the Tucuman lemon to be exported to the United States…During his visit to the province, he also met with the leading lemon producers to internalize the problem linked to the barriers imposed by the U.S. for the entry of Argentinian citrus…The ambassador said that "the suspension of the General System of Preferences has an impact of 18 million dollars, over a total of 13,500 million dollars in a year of trading in Argentina and the States."
[Telam; 5 April 2012]

South African orange exports to India set for boost in 2012

One of India's leading fruit importers has told www.freshfruitportal.com imports of South African Valencia oranges are set to jump by 40% this season. IG International director Tarun Arora, said he would be importing fewer Australian navels in favor of South African Valencias which he described as of excellent quality. "They are fabulous in terms of color, they have smooth skin, and they don't tend to get scars so their appearance is very nice," he said. He added South African Valencias were also smaller-sized than Australian Navels, which which was attractive to Indian consumers… "India is a price conscious market…He said that a 15 kg (33lbs) box of South African oranges was typically around US$3 dollars cheaper than Australian ones. Suri added India was favoring Egyptian Valencias to Californian oranges for exactly the same reason, with each box of Egyptian fruit standing at US$8, compared to US$13 for a Californian box. South African growers are conscious the Indian market offers huge potential to diversify with the Citrus Growers Association (CGA) taking part in the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (Brics) summit in New Delhi at the end of last month. Van Doorn Citrus marketing manager Max le Roux, said his company has appointed a representative in India and plans to export 3000MT of Valencias this season. He said India's 35% import duty, together with the cold steri process, meant costs were higher than other markets…But he said it was important for South African growers to seize the opportunity of exporting to India. "We have a growing citrus industry and we need to find alternative markets for this growth. We see that our traditional markets like the Middle East and Russia are being overun by Northern Hemisphere suppy which is running into our season." California's Valencia crop this season is currently three weeks behind schedule because of an unusually mild winter …CGA chief executive Justin Chadwick described the trip to India as valuable for strengthening South African and Indian official links over trade negotiations and reducing the import tariff…Shipping times from South Africa to India currently take between 17 to 21 days.
[www.freshfruitportal.com; 11 April 2012]

Southern Hemisphere citrus shipments increase by almost 2%

Citrus exports from the member countries of SHAFFE, an association that represents fresh fruit producers and exporters of the Southern Hemisphere, will increase by 1.67% compared to 2011.
Orange, soft citrus and lemon shipments will grow by 2.06%, 6.82% and 2% respectively, while grapefruit shipments would experience a decrease of 9.25%.
[Freshplaza.com; 12 April]

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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