

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (17)

John Edmonds (8 June 2012)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Argentine citrus exports nosedive in 2012

Argentine citrus exports have plummeted this season with oranges recording an 88% year-on-year decrease and lemons a 64% drop, website Elentrierios.com reported. The Argentine Citrus Federation's latest weekly reports also show mandarins posting a 41% year-on-year decline. The figures are even more dramatic when compared with 2010 displaying a 91% drop in oranges, 72% fall in lemons and 54% decrease in mandarins, the story reported. Paradoxically, this shipment decline comes at a time of record citrus yields due to advanced treatments and favorable weather conditions. North East Argentine Citrus Exporters Chamber of Commerce executive director Dr Mariano Caprarulo, said the European crisis and loss of competitiveness were the main reasons for the shrinkage. "The current scenario puts corporations in an extreme situation, drowned out by the increasingly high internal costs in an international context that does not help," he was quoted as saying. "There is no longer any more time. Urgent measures need to be adopted, to at least halt the sharp decline in exports and loss of markets, which took many years to achieve and will take many more to try and recover." He said his organization had been working with national and regional governments on a medium-term strategic plan for oranges and mandarins over the next five years. However, while authorities had been willing to meet and discuss various courses of action, this had not translated into "specific measures". Caprarulo said the country's main competitors had the advantage of more favorable exchange rates, free trade agreements and strong state support for producers.
[freshfruitportal.com; 16 May 2012]

US: Chilean clementine to east coast up 16% in week 22

Tonnage of Chilean clementines loaded to the USA east coast through Week 22 is up 16% over last year while loadings to the US west coast are running very close to last years volumes... With weeks 20, 21 and 22 representing the heaviest loading weeks, the effects of these heavy weeks of loading may start to be felt in the coming weeks. The clementine market on the east coast is holding steady with solid pricing on arrivals that are primarily Chilean, complemented by Peruvian clementines (and anticipating the arrival of South African clementines). The west coast market is also, for now, holding its own on although at a few dollars below the prevailing east coast price... Navel oranges will shortly be arriving from South Africa with some light early volumes from Chile to complement. Opening prices on imported navels is expected to be US\$ 30 on 40's, 48's and 56's, US\$28 on 64's, US\$ 26 on 72's and 88's. With a South African crop tending toward smaller sizes, the price of 72's and 88's may come under the earliest pressure. But many Chilean shippers are predicting a crop that will tend toward larger sizes. This will complement the South African program and, most importantly, may help prevent a serious, market-wide discount of small fruit.
[Freshplaza.com; 8 June 2012]

India: Scientist unlocks genetics of fruit disease

A Chandigarh based scientist has unravelled the gene pattern of a bacteria that causes a disease affecting pomegranate, mango and citrus. Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH) scientist Prabhu B Patil said "The striking similarities in the genomes of Xanthomonas pathogens that infect diverse fruit crops suggest that India may be the probable region of origin and diversification of these highly specialized fruit pathogens." The disease caused by Xanthomonas were certainly first noticed in India. The unlocking of the genetic code will be valuable in managing the spread. Patil travelled to Belgium to collect the original/reference strain of the bacteria. "I wanted to decode the genes of the bacterium and study its evolution. So, the original strain had to be collected. Thereafter, the strain was sent for DNA sequence to know the basic structure of the genes. This was followed by decoding the genes through a special software and analysis," he said. In mango, the disease is known as bacterial black spot and in citrus, it is known as bacterial canker. In pomegranate, the disease is known as bacterial blight or telya (oily spots). Both, mango and citrus pathogens, have now spread worldwide. The team found that the genomes of the bacterial disease in mango and pomegranate were not just closely related to each other but also to that of citrus and grapes. "This gives the scientists more keys to unlock the mystery behind the disease and where and how it is caused," said Patil.
[articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com; 5 June 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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