GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (18)

John Edmonds (15 June 2012) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

SA Western Cape navel shipments to the U.S. set to climb

South Africa's first shipments of navel oranges arrived in the U.S. port of Philadelphia last week with exports from Cape Town stepping up from next week. Three container vessels with clementines, and some navel oranges, left Cape Town last month taking 24 days to arrive. Shipments are arriving every 10 days to ensure there are no gaps in the market. Western Cape Citrus Producers Forum's (WCCPF) CEO Suhanra Conradie, said citrus quality was excellent this season with high brix levels, which should appeal to U.S. consumers. "Like all products of nature, the South African summer citrus is reliant on weather conditions to develop its delicious sweet and juicy taste. This year we had a hot summer to develop the flavor of the fruit and cold conditions to brighten the color." The forum is expecting orange exports of navels, cara cara and midknights to the U.S. to increase significantly on 2011 shipments of 2.43 million (15 kilogram) cartons. Clementine exports are also expected to be up on 2011's figures of 262,215 cartons, which were lower than 2010's shipments. "Only the best citrus comes to the U.S. because it meets and exceeds the extraordinary high standards set by the U.S. regulations," said Conradie. "It is a source of considerable pride to everyone here, that begins with the growers, that we are able to meet and exceed the U.S. standards. It is a very tough program and only just over 300 growers in South Africa can meet those standards," said Conradie. Tastings are currently being organized across a range of U.S.… WCCPF spokesperson Lisa Packer, said growers were also visiting selected stores giving shoppers the chance to find out more about the fruit. "It is in direct response to consumer demand to know more about where their food comes from. And consumers enjoy meeting those growers who love talking about their fruit."
[freshfruitportal.com; 12 June 2012]

Chilean citrus exports to grow 7% to the U.S

Producers plan to export about 32,000 tons of clementines and mandarins, which would be 7% more than last year, with most of that volume directed to the U.S., said Tom Tjerandsen, Director General for North America of the Chilean Fresh Fruit Association (CFFA.) The harvest began in early May, and clementines and mandarins are expected to begin begin marketed in the U.S. in late May or early June. "Everything looks pretty normal," said Tjerandsen, which includes size, colour and degrees Brix levels. Meanwhile, Chile hopes to sell clementines and mandarins until August to the U.S. In this regard, the marketing of Navels would begin the first week of June up to early October, peaking in mid-August. According to Chilean producer forecasts 70,000 Navels tons, 10% more than last year, would be exported with most of this volume routed to the U.S., said Tjerandsen. The reasons for this increased volume of Chilean citrus according to the representative of the CFFA, is due to increased plantings in order to respond and keep up with the rising U.S. demand…
[Freshplaza.com; 14 June 2012]

Morocco sees citrus-fruit yields falling 20% to 30% on heat wave

Morocco's citrus yields may slide 20 percent to 30 percent from the 2011-12 season after a heat wave in May caused greater-than-usual losses of developing fruit, the Agriculture Ministry said. Peak temperatures in the first 20 days of May exceeded 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit), the ministry wrote in a statement on its website today. The heat coincided with a growth stage when citrus trees naturally shed fruit, worsening losses, the ministry said.
Morocco picked 1.82 million metric tons of citrus fruit in 2011-12 that included 976,000 tons of oranges, about 10 percent of production in the Mediterranean region, data from the European Fresh Produce Association show. A 30 percent drop would result in the country's smallest citrus crop since 2007-08. "It's very early to determine the exact or definitive extent of the damages, as the phenomenon of fall continues through to the end of June," the ministry wrote. "The situation could see a positive development because of the compensation effect, formation of large-sized fruit, that could mitigate the effect of the excessive fall of fruit." Farmers reported citrus-tree fruit losses of 60 percent to 80 percent, compared with a usual rate of 50 percent, according to the ministry.
[Bloomberg.com; 15 June 2012]

Argentina will export as of July 1st sweet citrus to Brazil

The Argentine government will start to export fresh citrus to the Brazilian market in July, after overcoming differences with the neighboring country on "plant health checks" of these products, reported El Mercurio.
[Freshplaza.com; 15 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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