GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (19)

John Edmonds (22 June 2012) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Europe eager for early South African navel exports

South African navel orange exporters are gaining strong prices in Europe thanks to a shortage of late fruit from Spain and Morocco. Grown4U chief executive officer Snyman Kritzinger, said because these countries had finished earlier than normal with late navels, supermarkets were changing quickly to South African imports. “Europe is very strong, and the U.K. too, especially for bigger sized fruit. We are getting higher prices than last year.” He said larger-sized navels with a count of 64 or bigger, were fetching €12-14 per 15 kilogram carton on the wholesale market, compared with €10-12 last year. Colors Fruit marketing manager for citrus Nico Veldsman agreed there was a lack of Spanish late navels and Valencias in the European market. “There’s very little around and the fruit which is available is of a poor quality. Normally, there’s a lot of fruit from Spain but this year the market is almost empty. There’s a good opportunity for a short window.” He added that the quality of late navels and Valencias from Morocco also wasn’t good. Kritzinger said while South African fruit quality was high this season, in general the crop had more smaller sized fruit than normal, particularly in the Western Cape. Rain last week had delayed harvesting of the last of South Africa’s Navels which Veldsman said could be a good thing in terms of gaining larger sizes. “The dry and hot weather means the fruit doesn’t have that long to mature on the trees otherwise the quality is affected.” The last of the Eastern Cape Navels are expected to be collected by the end of next week with the Western Cape a few weeks behind.
[freshfruitportal.com; 19 June 2012]

Spain: Grapefruit exports reached 50,000 tons

Spanish grapefruit exports reached 50,000 tons in the 2011/2012 campaign which has just finished, fulfilling predictions made at the beginning of the harvest. This according to data from Ailimpo. José António García, general director for Ailimpo, pointed out that the export figures are in line with the numbers from previous years and show a consolidation of the Spanish product in the European market, in opposition to other sources such as Florida and South Africa. "The Spanish grapefruit managed to get a quite adequate quality/price position," affirmed García, "despite having competition with Turkey and Israel." France is the main destination for Spanish products and concentrates more than 60% of sales
[Freshplaza.com; 21 June 2012]

Uruguay: Citrus production suffers due to low temperatures

The unexpected frosts in some places in the North of Uruguay that registered 9 degrees below zero caused losses in the citrus sector, as there are establishments that can't even place their harvests in the internal market. This situation was classified as serious by departmental legislators and producers. It is being handled by the Departmental Local Body will inform governmental authorities about the impact of the weather conditions that will not only damage exports, but will also affect producers and many families. The president of the Horticultural Group in Salto, José Luis Ferreira, said to El País that this weather adversity that arrived unexpectedly and when they were already facing a water crisis will be evaluated in 60 days time, despite the fact that there are areas like the citrus where it's easy to see that everything's lost. "There are many orange and lemon trees that don't have even leaves on the plants…" said Ferreira.
[El País Digital; 21 June 2012]

Turners & Growers owes $2.5m

Turners & Growers, the parent of fruit exporter Enza, says it's subsidiary has been caught as ''the meat in the sandwich'' as it tries to unravel a US$2 million (NZ$2.5 million) web of debt owed to angry South African suppliers. The debts were racked up by its Hong-Kong based partner Sun Rising, owned by father-and-son team YC and Daniel Chan. Geoff Hipkins, chief executive of Turners & Growers, said the Chans had made claims about fruit quality which complicated the situation further. ''I'm hoping to have the whole sordid mess sorted out, probably within a fortnight'', he said…Other staff will hit the ground in South Africa this week to soothe the nerves of suppliers, who had reacted ''somewhat aggressively'' to the situation… ''We will be referring the sums owed to a professional debt collector in Hong Kong, which will probably then lead to legal action against the company Sun Rising.''…However, he said creditors would get their money back once all the claims had been finalised. Enza had a ''loose'' joint venture relationship with Sun Rising, which sold fruit, including South African citrus and grapes, into the Hong Kong and Chinese markets. That relationship will now be terminated, Hipkins said.
[www.stuff.co.nz; 18 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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