

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (26)

John Edmonds (10 August 2012)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

US (FL): Floating citrus to be used in oil test

Grapefruit, oranges and limes will float across part of a Miami bay to test plans to protect shorelines that would be vulnerable to damage from an offshore oil spill. The Coast Guard and other state and federal agencies will close off part of Biscayne Bay on Thursday with 7,500 feet of boom. Officials say the boom is supposed to divert the floating fruit to nearby beaches. The fruit is a stand-in for oil. In the event of a major spill, the boom would deflect oil onto beaches or into weaker currents. Officials say it's easier to clean up oil from those areas than in sensitive mangroves. The boom is the same kind used in the response to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

[sacbee.com; 10 August 2012]

Argentine citrus nursery makes it into the record books

An Argentine citrus nursery with 550,000 lemon trees has made it into the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest one in the world. The publication's Latin American representative Ralph Hannah, supervised counting at the nursery Citrus Vivero, which started on Tuesday afternoon and continued well into the night. Nursery owner José Luis Palacios, said he had tried last year to enter for a record but had been unsuccessful, so he was hoping he would clinch it this year. Local media reported that the idea came after industry colleagues from different parts of the world commented on the number of trees he had in his Tucumán nursery. He then started to investigate the procedures and processes needed to gain entry in the book.

[www.freshfruitportal.com; 9 August 2012]

14% of export in the southern hemisphere exists of mandarins from Peru

When it comes to producers of citrus fruits in the southern hemisphere, Peru ranks number four. It puts itself in the demand of countries like the US, the UK and Hong Kong. For at least 10 years, Peru has been part of the top mandarin producing countries. Mandarins take up 10% of the country's total production. The mandarin is a citrus consumed in most countries of the world. The considerable output allows Peru to compete with South Africa, Argentina and Australia...As Chairman of Procitrus, Peru's union of citrus producers, Ricardo Polis expects citrus production to reach 840,000 tons, a 10% increase of last year. With the introduction of new irrigation projects, current export could surge by as much as 50%.

[Source: RPP; 8 August 2012]

Chilean citrus exports set to rise in 2012

The current Citrus season is going well for Chile so far. The weather has been kind, as Juan Enrique Ortuzar, President of the Chilean Citrus Committee, says, "The weather was warm during autumn to develop good brix and size, but the cooler winter has helped to turn the fruit a brilliant orange color but up to now we have not experienced major freezes." ...Exports figures are looking good this year, with an anticipated rise of 10% overall, to 166,000 metric tonnes. Last year's exports, which were an 11% rise on the previous year, reached 159,581 tonnes. Ortuzar explains how last year's citrus exports were broken down, "In 2011 oranges were the leading citrus export with a 39.8% share of the total, followed by the easy peelers with 29.8%, lemons with 29.6% and grapefruit at 0.8%." "This year navel orange exports are anticipated to rise 10% to reach 69,000 metric tonnes. W Murcott shipments are expected to rise by 35% to 19,000 metric tonnes, while clementines should rise 5% to 34,000 metric tonnes. Lemons, meanwhile, are not expected to rise significantly, but are expected to settle around 45,000 metric tonnes." The US is the primary market, as Juan Enrique explains, "The US accounted for 70% of exports last year, and this share is expected to increase in 2012." "Following the US is the Far East, which accounts for around 15% of the export total, just under half of which is destined for Japan. Behind these markets Europe also receive a share which could recover from last year's drop, but is too early to know." The campaign is not without its challenges, Australia and South Africa in particular make for strong competition. The season is progressing fast and it is possible that packouts may go down if maturity progresses too fast. The lack of rains in the Coquimbo region is of major concern and it is expected that there will not be enough snow in the mountains and water in the reservoirs to meet the next year's irrigation needs. Maintaining a minimum quality for all the export fruit is also a concern for the committee. "The Chilean Citrus Committee oversees a minimum maturity program for Navels destined to the export market to make sure that all Navels meet a minimum standard in the marketplace," Said Ortuzar. "A marketing campaign has been presented to promote the fruit in the US and South Korean markets.

[Freshplaza.com; 7 August 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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