GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (28)

John Edmonds (24 August 2012) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Argentina: Operations in East Asian markets are increasingly important

The president of the Tucuman Citrus Association, Roberto Sánchez Loria, referred to the prevention tasks that are being developed by citrus growers to avoid the presence of HLB. The appearance of a plant with symptoms of HLB in Misiones, tested policies to prevent the speading of the disease. Tucumán integrates the national warning network, which acted in a timely manner and prevented the spread of the vector. Roberto Sanchez Loria, president of the Tucuman Citrus Association (ATC) spoke of this and other topics. "This year we redouble efforts, coupled with the commitment of provincial and national authorities, in favor of the defence against HLB (Huanglongbing or Greening). ATC's strategy is to extend, as much as possible, the time frame to allow us to remain free of the disease… Our operations in East Asian markets are increasingly important. It means that, every year, in a gradual and interrupted way, our presence consolidates in those markets…- We are working to try to modify the existing Japanese protocol, including the need to transport lemons in refrigeration…we have enough documentation to justify our argument that the lemon, in normal conditions does not host the fruit fly. This will allow us to improve our situation in the protocol with Japan, and will have a direct effect on the protocol with China which has similar requirements.

[Freshplaza.com; 23 August 2012]

U.S. defends restrictions on Argentine lemons

The United States on Wednesday defended its restrictions on imports of lemons from Argentina after the South American country said it planned to challenge the measures at the World Trade Organization…On Tuesday, the United States and Japan challenged Argentine government regulations that require prior approval of nearly all foreign purchases as a violation of WTO rules…"The United States is surprised and disappointed at Argentina's reaction," USTR spokeswoman Nkenge Harmon said in an emailed statement…"Nonetheless, I can say that all U.S. measures relating to imports of Argentine products, including lemons, are science-based and consistent with WTO requirements," she said. Argentina complained in its press release the U.S. market has been closed to Argentine lemons since 2001 for health concerns, even though other countries accept the fruit. "Argentine citrus is exported to destinations with very high health standards such as the Netherlands, Spain and Italy, which do not question the excellent quality of Argentine produce," the Argentine government said. Last year, U.S. imports of Argentine farm products topped $1.64 billion, while U.S. agricultural exports to Argentina totaled $154 million, Harmon said. However, Argentina is one of the few countries with which the United States enjoys an overall trade surplus. Last year, it exported $9.9 billion worth of goods to Argentina and imported $4.5 billion from that country.

[Freshplaza.com; 23 August 2012]

20% increase in Chilean clementines and mandarins to US

Through Week 32, Chilean exporters had loaded almost 33 000 metric tons of clementines and mandarins to the US representing an increase of almost 20% through the same period last year. East coast loadings are up 46% over last year while west coast loadings are down by 13.3%. But the worst weeks of this difficult clementine season appear to be over …Chilean clementine arrivals have declined and South African clementine arrivals are done for the season…Through Week 32, Chilean exporters had loaded 31 854 metric tons of navel oranges to the US (equivalent to over 2.1 million 15 kg cases). This is almost 49% more than last season over the same period. Loadings to the east coast are up by 66% over last season and loadings to the west coast are up almost 49%. For its part, South Africa has already landed 1.3 million cases of navel oranges in the US with 600 000 cases more to arrive (a 15% increase over last season). Australian navel orange arrivals are also up from last season by as much as 300 000 cases… California shippers have carried what had been thought to be a freeze-shortened crop right through July and into August. With that backdrop it should come as no surprise that the navel orange market has continued to show a general price level that is at least US$ 2 down from the levels traditionally seen in late-August…Through Week 33 on the east coast, where the market is shared by South Africa and Chile, 48’s and 56’s are selling at US$ 20-22, 64`s are mostly at US$ 20 and 72`s and 88’s are at US$ 16-18…With the deluge of Chilean arrivals set to hit in the last week of August resulting in continued heavy stocks, we expect to see the general price level of navel oranges continue at these levels for the next three weeks or so as sellers try to bring inventories into line.

[Freshplaza.com; 20 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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