GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (30)

John Edmonds (7 September 2012) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

US: Clementine and mandarin prices firm up

Clementine and mandarin prices are firming up in all regions of the US owing to a relative shortage of product in the market combined with strengthening demand. Indeed, the heavy week to week inventories of easy peelers that had been apparent through most of July and the first weeks of August have disappeared such that product arrivals are now insufficient to meet weekly demand. This gap in supply has come about as exporters transition from traditional clementines to late mandarins and has allowed sellers to clear their ageing clementine stocks and catch their breath before the late varieties arrive…Chilean late mandarins and W. Murcotts are expected to become widely available in the market in Week 36 and onward. Peruvian W. Murcotts continue to be available and South African late varieties will also shortly be available. While the soft citrus supply and demand have come more into line, the same cannot yet be said for navel oranges. Through Week 34, Chilean exporters have shipped 4 140 metric tons of navel oranges into the US, a mass equivalent to 2.76 million (15 kg) cases. This is almost 54% more volume than was shipped from Chile over the same period last year with most of this increase arriving on the east coast. This has come in a season where South Africa and Australia have also increased their exports to the US as has been reported earlier. The result is that the US has an uncomfortably high level of navel orange inventories in the hands of many receivers. Market prices reflect the oversupply as sellers cannot afford to be excessively discriminating in accepting purchase orders. The situation is mitigated, to some degree, by the fact that school is back in session and citrus consumption is on the rise. The momentary general shortage of easy peelers in the market can also only help navel orange movement…With big navel orange volumes still expected to arrive from Chile, and with more navels and, later, Midknights, from South Africa, it looks as though the market will be well-supplied for some time yet.
[Freshplaza.com; 3 September 2012]

Spain: Committee of citrus fruits discusses quality and export

The Counsel for Agriculture, Food and Water (La Conselleria de Agricultura, Pesca, Alimentación y Agua), together with several cooperations and agricultural organisations, met this week with the Committee of Citrus Management (Comité de Gestión de Cítricos). These parties discussed the quality of citrus fruits and made public that Valencia's main product is in excellent condition. Nevertheless, none of them was able to tackle the dwindling production in the Castellón province, estimated to be over 20%...Also, financial support to compensate for the damage done by recent frost has been assured.
[Freshplaza.com; 7 September 2012]

Smaller Spanish lemon season expected

The first lemon harvest estimates by Ailimpo predict the production to reach between 850,000 and 900,000 tonnes (between 10 to 15% less than last season), depending on the development of fruit sizes, which will be down to the Autumn rains. This prediction has been rated by Ailimpo as "sufficient" in terms of volume in tonnes and "very good" in terms of quality, which will ensure supply to clients. Like last season, most of the lemon production is expected to be used for fresh consumption, whether exported or within the national market, or by the processing industry, making it desirable for the harvesting process to be well-planned and orderly. In any case, the beginning of the campaign will be marked by the end of the season in the Southern Hemisphere (Argentina, Uruguay and South Africa), and by Turkey's competitiveness, favoured by lower production costs and plenty of funding granted by the Turkish government to their exporters. The lemon campaign in Spain will begin in October, developing the usual activities and increasing volumes progressively.
[Ailimpo; 29 August 2012]

Indonesia: Glut of oranges lowers prices

Orange farmers from Kintamani in the regency of Bangli are leaving their well-known "Jeruk Kintamani" hanging on the tree to rot due to low demand. Made Suara, a Jeruk Kintamani grower said, "The growers here cannot harvest their fruit due to the lack of traders wishing to pay a viable price." Farmers are reluctant to harvest after being offered prices in the region of only $0.43 US per kg. The price the fruit is usually sold for in the supermarkets is $1.08 per kg, minimum.
[balidiscovery.com; 3 September 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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