GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (34)

John Edmonds (12 October 2012)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Argentina: Tucumán's lemon exports dropped but prices held up

Global lemon shipments from the Argentine province of Tucumán were 20% down this year but export prices fared better than expected according to the province's citrus association president Roberto Sánchez Loria, website Estoestucuman.com.ar. However, exports to Russia and South East Asia were more or less the same as the previous season. The province exported 260,000 metric tons (MT) of high quality lemons to major world markets with the amount of fruit sent for processing slightly down on the previous season. According to a major lemon company senior executive, Europe's April rains meant lemon consumption and supply of the fruit was low leaving the market clear for Tucumán exports in May. He added this had led to stable prices over a longer period of time than normal. Tucumán also benefitted from mild weather without July's frosts allowing producers to harvest in a more relaxed way than in the previous two years, the story reported. Sánchez Loria added his members were continuing negotiations with the World Trade Organization to get U.S. restrictions lifted for export of the province's lemons. Exports to non-traditional markets this year rose reaching 23,458MT compared with 20,356MT in 2011 and 8,203MT in 2010.
[www.freshfruitportal.com; 12 October 2012]

U.S. market 'demanding and competitive' for Chilean citrus

The U.S. market has become the top destination for Chilean citrus fruit but prices have been low this year due to an oversupply of Navel oranges and Clementines. According to information given to www.freshfruitportal.com by the Chilean Citrus Committee, while the market is both significant and attractive, it is also demanding and very competitive. The demand and supply profiles for citrus in North America have changed greatly in the last 15 years, with consumers now accustomed to eating new citrus fruits and year-round availability."Interest from retails and foodservice has also increased to supply a growing demand for summer citrus and for Chilean citrus," the committee said in a statement. The committee highlights that Chilean clementines led the easy peeler category during the North American summer. With the harvest finished, shipments rose 4% year-on-year to a total of 34,000MT…"There is almost no overlap or competition with late Californian mandarins, but they [Chilean fruit] do compete with clementines from South Africa, the growing supply of late W. Murcott mandarins from Peru and other mandarins from Australia. "In this campaign, the U.S. received a higher volume of Chilean and South African clementines, and Peruvian W. Murcott shipments from mid-June also increased the supply concentration in the U.S. A lack of rain in Chile's central and northern regions meant that harvests and shipments were more concentrated this year than in previous seasons…particularly concentrated on the East Coast. This led to a temporary oversupply in the July-August period, which as a consequence led to a fall in prices from their initial highs. Prior to the end of the Chilean clementine deal there was a temporary shortage and prices rebounded from week 34, coinciding with a strong demand period when students returned to school. This meant shipments of Chilean W. Murcotts started in a recovered market with very fast movement and good prices…The committee expects a 35% increase in shipments of the fruit this season as a result of new orchards entering production. To week 39 the country had shipped 15,931MT of the fruit, representing a 52% year-on-year rise. Of this total, 14,238MT went to the U.S.
When it comes to Navels, the committee said higher competition was seen this year due to Californian stocks and a growth in shipments from Chile and South Africa…On both coasts prices were stable during recent weeks and it is not yet sure if they will be able to rise before the start of new shipments from the Californian season at the start of November. To week 39, Chile had shipped 66,120MT worth of Navels, representing a 17% year-on-year rise, while the increase with higher to the U.S. market, jumping 26% to 50,765MT…It said the Navel season has not satisfied the expectations of Chilean growers and exporters, who have been obliged to hold fruit in cold storage and some lots have had to be repacked due to problems with condition. "The growth of the Southern Hemisphere Navel supply has surpassed what the market could take at prices from previous seasons," said committee president Juan Enrique Ortúzar.
[www.freshfruitportal.com; 11 October 2012]

US (FL): Slightly larger grapefruit volume expected

The most recent estimates for this year's Florida grapefruit crop are slightly higher than last year's production. With a gap in supplies between the California season and the Florida season, that fruit has, so far, been well- received by a hungry market. The U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service released its citrus estimates on Thursday, and projections for this year's Florida grapefruit crop total 20.3 million boxes. That's 8 percent higher than last season's production of 18.9 million boxes.
[www.freshplaza.com; 12 October 2012]

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