

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (36)

John Edmonds (26 October 2012)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Mexico: Tamaulipas is the leading exporter of lemon to the U.S. market

The Secretary for Rural Development of the Government, Jorge Alberto Reyes Moreno, reported that the presence of lemon produced in Tamaulipas (Mexico) has strengthened in the global markets by registering at the end of this year an exportable production of 35,000 tons... Tamaulipas ranks as the largest exporter of this product in the international market, pushing down from first place Chilean producers and obtaining more than the 270 million pesos....It was informed that Tamaulipas' lemon is not used for export, is intended to national juice manufacturers for the extraction of essential oils, juice and concentrates, besides processing the peel to obtain pectin for export food industry. Tamaulipas counts with 40,000 hectares in the municipalities of Llera, Güemez, Padilla, Hidalgo and Victoria, which generate about 600,000 tons annually, where the Valencia orange stands out because of its area and production and in second place is the lemon. The Secretary said that in 2011, 25,000 tons of lemon from Tamaulipas was exported to the United States.

[www.freshplaza.com; 24 October 2012]

Peru: Citrus shipments recorded an annual growth of 31% between 2009 and 2012

Between January and August 2012, Peruvian exports of mandarins recorded an increase of 35% over the same period of 2011, totaling a value of USD 50 million...As for its major destinations, from January to August 2012, shipments of Peruvian mandarins were directed mainly to the UK, which took 33.3% of total exports of mandarins (USD 16.6 million), followed by Canada (21.3%, USD 10.6 million) and U.S. (19.2%, USD 10 million).

[www.freshplaza.com; 24 October 2012]

Spain: Valencia to export 61,000 tonnes of clementines to the US

According to initial estimates, the region of Valencia will export 61,000 tonnes of citrus to the US during the 2012-2013 campaign. This entails a 28% growth compared to last season and a return to the volumes recorded two years ago.

This was announced by the government delegate in Valencia, Paula Sánchez de León, after holding a meeting with citrus exporter representatives and attending the loading of the first US bound ships leaving Castellon's harbour with Valencian clementines. Sánchez de León wished to offer the government's "full support" to the citrus-exporting sector.

The delegate said that she expects the initial estimates to be correct, "because in the current financial situation, it would be a great success for both Spain and the Region of Valencia."

Furthermore, she highlighted the significance it has for Spain, the world's fifth largest citrus producer, to be selling to the US, which is the third largest, "which is a testament to the high quality of the Spanish produce."

Spain: "Satsumas are mature and ready for harvest"

The Okitsu Satsuma variety has been marketed since 25 September, sold both with leaf and leafless. "Now is the right moment for Satsumas, because they have reached the ideal degree of maturity, with a Brix level between 13 and 14°. We harvest it and after just two days in the chamber they acquire their natural colour, yellowish orange," explains David López, from Asunción López S.L.U. David says that it is necessary to start working with Satsumas as soon as they are mature; however, some exporters begin too soon, before they are ready, because they want to be first right after the stone fruit season. "Some harvest the fruit before it reaches optimal market conditions. Importers buy the fruit and it reaches the consumer still tangy in flavour," explains David. "Because of this, consumers tend to wait for 15 to 20 days before buying it again, causing prices to fall, which severely damages the market." ...Asunción López is negotiating the terms to start exporting citrus to Peru, a country where demand is growing thanks to an increase in the average purchasing power of the citizens. This way, they would fill the gap in the Peruvian citrus market between November and May. "The negotiations with Peru have been settled, but it is being difficult to obtain answers from Spain's Ministry of Agriculture to authorise the operations."

[www.freshplaza.com; 22 October 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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