

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (37)

John Edmonds (2 November 2012)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

New variety Clemensoon, "first of the season"

The firm Anecoop has patented a new clementine variety which, due to its extra early harvest time, has been named Clemensoon. The variety has been studied for more than 10 years. After being closely monitored by Anecoop at La Masía del Doctor, in the Valencian town of Museros, Spain, and matched with data from other locations...it can be harvested from early September until the end of October.

[www.freshplaza.com; 1 November 2012]

Netherlands: "Importing pomelos only for the real specialist"

The Chinese pomelo season is underway. Europe is one of its biggest customers: the pomelo finds its way to Germany, Scandinavia and Eastern Europe. In spite of the pomelo's rise to fame, the citrus fruit hasn't yet taken off in Holland. The past couple of years Chinese suppliers have had issues in regard to MRL legislation, resulting in many shipments having to be destroyed. Bram Verbaas of Citrus World said that this year's crop in China is smaller than normal, due to the climate. Export is also down. Culprits here are the dollar, high domestic demand and higher production costs. MRL issues have prompted some traders to stop importing Chinese pomelos. "So import numbers are down. But this might not be bad, at least not for the price."...Edward Kempeneers agrees that import is low, but adds to have to know your trade. "All our traders know their business. We have had no problems so far." Kempeneers admits that the Dutch are unfamiliar with the pomelo, and thinks most of its chances lie in Eastern Europe. "It's a tricky product, and it takes a specialist to properly market them."

[www.freshplaza.com; 31 October 2012]

US: Fears for Hurricane Sandy lift orange juice prices

The weather price premium has returned to orange juice futures this week amid concerns Hurricane Sandy could damage groves in Florida, the world's second biggest grower. Speculators had been winding down storm related positions since the peak of the hurricane between mid-August and late October. Orange juice futures for January delivery are down more than 20% from their best level in September...A recent report published by the Florida Department of Citrus showed domestic retail sales of from-concentrate orange juice fell 4.8% in terms of volume during September.

[www.agrimoney.com; 30 October 2012]

Valencian citrus exports to Russia increased by 200%

Valencian citrus exports to Russia are increasing from campaign to campaign and from the 2009/2010 campaign to the 2011/2012, those have grown by 203.5%, from 21,475.7 tons to 65194.1 tons. Thus, it has become a reference country, by consolidating an export volume which represents 2.4% of all citrus sales abroad and shows a positive outlook on the rising demand of its 140 million inhabitants. In economic terms, the value of exports to Russia has also increased. It is quantified by 36 million Euro in 2011, and has an increase of 111.7% over 2010.

The Valencian citrus has seen a 12.6% increase worldwide between the 2009/2010 and 2011/2012 campaigns. In this last one, 2.76 million tons were sold abroad. The most popular have been mandarins (1.38 million tons), followed by oranges (1.19 million tons) and by clementines (1.10 million tons). Lemons are quantified at 160,997 tons. The main competition of the Valencian citrus is in the basin of the Mediterranean. Despite the fact that Spain leads with 3.6 million tons, accounting for 48.2%, of citrus exports of the area in the 2010/2011 campaign, other countries compete to sell their products at a lower price. Among the European Union countries are, Greece who has a citrus exports of 462,300 tons in the same period. From the south bank, Morocco sent 529,400 tons, Egypt 922,200 tons and the largest producer and exporter, Turkey with 1.3 million tons.

[www.freshplaza.com; 26 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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