

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (39)

John Edmonds (16 November 2012)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

CA: Rain in Spain a pain for clementine importers

Rain in Spanish clementine growing regions has held back the harvest there. With a crop that was already forecast to be short, and with short supplies expected from Morocco, Canadian importers are having a hard time finding enough clementines to satisfy consumers. "Right now, we have a lot of demand for clementines in Toronto and Montreal, and supplies are really short," said Robert Beauregard of the Montreal-based importer, Agri-Mondo. Harvesting in Spain, which, along with Morocco, is where Agri-Mondo sources their clementines during this time of year, has been delayed by persistent rain. Because pickers can't get into the fields when it's raining, fruit has been scarce... "There was talk in Spain about 25 percent less fruit than last year, even before the rains," said Beauregard. "And Morocco was expected to have about 30 percent less fruit because too much hot weather during summer caused a lot of fruit to drop." Harvesting through the rain is not a good idea, as that would affect fruit quality. So the only option for growers in Spain is to wait until the weather clears before they start harvesting again...

[www.freshplaza.com; 15 November 2012]

Mexico will send oranges and manderins to the U.S.

Next year, citrus producers from Padilla, Güémez and Victoria, could start by exporting 10,000 tons of orange and manderins to the United States after the fruit fly was eradicated in several of these Mexican municipalities. Humberto Ramirez Vazquez, head of Plant Health Program SAGARPA reported that currently producers in this area send about 1,200 tons of Valencia oranges to the U.S. market annually. The actions that have been made in the program to combat fruit flies will allow them to have more free pest areas and exports could reach 10,000 tons in 2013. "We believe that with these measures we can export 8,000 tons of Valencia orange and 2,000 tons of mandarin, which would be sold in the state of Texas." He said that they just need to get the declaration of eradication phase of about 3,000 hectares of citrus planted in the municipalities of Padilla, Güémez and Victoria... He explained that in order to enter the U.S. orange, producers only have to spray the fruit and release infertile flies to strengthen the fight against the plague. The federal official said Tamaulipas' producers are also exploring the markets of Korea and Germany, where about 300 tons of orange were sent last year with very good acceptance.

[www.freshplaza.com; 15 November 2012]

Indonesia releases Australian citrus shipments

The Indonesia Government has agreed to release the 700 containers of fresh fruits and vegetables, including large volumes of citrus that has been held up at ports for the past 2 weeks. The Director General of Foreign Trade, Deddy Saleh, says new import regulations will now come into effect as of next month. Alistair Scott, a fruit exporter from Hannay Douglas in Brisbane, says Indonesia is increasing its customs presence after reports of oranges being labeled as mandarins to attract a lower tariff rate.

[abc.net.au; 14 November 2012]

Program introduces South African students to citrus industry

Students at three South African high schools participated in a unique pilot program this year to learn the ins and outs of the citrus industry. The Citrus Academy, with the support of the Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa, launched the secondary program in May, exposing a group of 60 students in the Eastern Cape and Limpopo provinces to hands-on experiences and industry professionals. Jacomien De Klerk, general manager of the academy, explained the original idea sprang from Kirkwood High School, an agricultural school where administration wanted to train students with employable, applicable skills by graduation... "We incorporate practical work in their assessment activities. So in order to prove competence in the harvesting module, they have to pick citrus or do orchard sanitation under supervision for a certain period. In most modules we do this," De Klerk said. With the first year already over, the initial assessments of the program's approach have been good. "The feedback we have received has been very positive, with learners enjoying this method of learning and facilitators finding it easy enough to implement. We work at making the learning material graphic and engaging to the younger eye, and to make information as easily digestible as possible," she said. Although the current program works exclusively with the citrus industry, De Klerk said the organization does cooperate with other agricultural organizations, opening the possibility for similar programs in other fields in the future.

[www.freshfruitportal.com; 14 November 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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