# GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (25)

John Edmonds (12 July 2013) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

**Netherlands: "Citrus fruit fetching good prices across the board"**

Citrus fruit is fetching good prices across the board. That is what Cees Bruyn from Bruyn International in Heerhugowaard tells us. "Egyptian and Moroccan citrus is virtually off the market. Producers in both South Africa and South America are extremely careful with export and vigorously monitor locally for MRLs and black spot. That would take a day and a half in Europe, but it's just that it takes a lot longer in South Africa." "This results in a tight market. Pretty much all varieties are in demand at the moment, from juicing oranges to navel oranges and lemons. The quality of citrus fruit is in accordance with other years," says Cees. The citrus importer expects volumes to be limited in July and August and that supply will only pick up from the first/second week of September. Cees shows his understanding for imposing requirements on fruit, but also asks to consider the costs for these certifications. "We've been importing citrus from Peru ourselves for over eight years now. First our producer had to be HACCP certified, followed by GlobalGAP and BRC. This creates additional costs. It should remain feasible for growers."
*[Freshplaza.com; 11 July 2013]*

**NZ: Citrus growers support compulsory levy**

Citrus growers have voted strongly in favour of a compulsory levy for all New Zealand grown citrus fruit. Votes were cast by growers representing an estimated 70% of the country's citrus production. More than 80% of those supported the levy. Currently there are commodity levies covering navel oranges and Satsuma mandarins. But levies on other citrus fruit, including lemons, limes and grapefruit, are voluntary. Under a compulsory levy, lemon growers will be able to halve their levy rate to 1 cent per kilo. Levy rates for other fruit will stay the same. Mandarins will keep their current levy rate of 0.5 cents, and the orange and tangelo levy remains at 1 cent. The levy on fruit for processing stays at 0.3 cents. Citrus New Zealand will apply to the Government to have the new commodity levy in place by April next year, to help fund research and development.
*[Freshplaza.com; 5 July 2013]*

**"No citrus black spot found on South African citrus, but situation unworkable"**

Before the start of the South African citrus season the EU announced measures in the war against possible infection by citrus black spot (CBS) on South African citrus. They threatened an import stop in case of five instances of black spot found, whilst last year even 27 cases were discovered. Nevertheless this season not a single instance of citrus black spot was discovered in South African citrus. There were, however, a few cases of black spot on Argentinian lemons, but for these the threats do not apply. "We hear that the measures and controls in South Africa are extremely strict, both official and business wise (growers organizations and exports). There is a great fear of possible occurrences and each risk is to be excluded. In a way the citrus would still be removed from the vessel. This leads to unworkable situations in South Africa. The result of no findings is good, but it is not the solution. South Africa is also emphatically looking at other export destinations" manageress Inge Ribbens, responsible for phytosanitary affairs at Frugi Venta, tells. Before the summer the draft report of EFSA is expected about the real risk of infection by black spot in the European growing areas. "After that a consultation round, in which everybody can react, therefore the definite statement can only be expected towards the end of the year. When the result of this investigation is that there are no risks, the position of the South African suppliers and exporters will be a lot stronger" Inge concludes.
*[Freshplaza.com; 9 July 2013]*

**Uruguayan citrus formally welcomed to U.S. market**

Through publication on the U.S. Federal Register, Uruguayan citrus was formally accepted for U.S. market access yesterday. The fruit will be allowed entrance 30 days after the announcement. The fruit has been under consideration by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service since March 2011. Leading up to yesterday's announcement, the fruit was opened for public consultation in February of this year…MGAP highlighted the announcement as an achievement for the nation's strategic planning and a key industry.
*[freshfruitportal.com; 11 July 2013]*

**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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