

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (27)

John Edmonds (26 July 2013)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Frost strikes lemons in Northwest Argentina

All Lemon has announced an increase in their quality control as a consequence of high frost damage in Northwest Argentina during this last week of July. During days of harsh climate, the fruit was exposed to temperatures between -2 ° to -11 ° for 3-12 hours per day. This led to an alert in the quality control processes, designed to preserve the quality of the lemons for export, minimizing the risk of including damaged fruit to shipments. It is still too early to give precise details of how much of the crop has been frost damaged, but All Lemon anticipates reduced shipments as a result, commencing around week 31....

[Freshplaza.com; 26 July 2013]

Summer dip for South African citrus

Lemons are under price pressure in the UK and Europe at the moment and large quantities of poor quality Argentinian are expected to keep the pressure on for the coming weeks. Grapefruit prices are also under pressure for the mid to small sizes and demand is slow, this is expected to continue for a few weeks. On the other hand demand is good for Valencias and Navels and prices and volumes remain stable. UK retailers are planning to start promotions in August but due to limited stock volumes this might be less aggressive than planned. According to figures from the PPECB (South African industry authority on the export of perishable products); arrivals to Europe from South African are substantially down on this time last year, there around a million cartons less of oranges. In Russia the market is also difficult at the moment; this has been the case for a few weeks now. The situation is not expected to improve until the summer holiday's end and people return to school and work in September, just now actual market prices are below importer's purchase prices. The Middle East market on the other hand is doing well, especially for lemons and Navels, Valencias are going for less than last year, but this is expected to improve in 4 weeks. Grapefruit is not doing well on the Far East market and orange prices are low. The supply of Valencias is limited at the moment but this will change shortly. There is still demand for grapefruit in China as long as quality is good.

[Freshplaza.com; 25 July 2013]

Mixed bag for Chilean citrus

Chilean citrus exports to the US are showing differing performances this season, according to the latest market report from Capespan North America's president and CEO Mark Greenberg. As the harvest moves into its final stages, Greenberg said Chilean clementine arrivals continue to show week-on-week declines on both coasts of the US in comparison to last season following drought conditions during production and wet and cold weather at the packing stage. In the orange category, however, arrivals on the East coast are down, while volume on the West Coast has risen against last year. "Through Week 28, total [clementine] tonnage to the East Coast has declined by more than 34 per cent over the same period last year, while tonnage to the West Coast has declined by almost 5 per cent over the same period," Greenberg explained. "Chilean [navel orange] loadings to the East Coast through Week 28 are running over 35 per cent less than last season over the same period and 22 per cent higher on the West Coast. "In total, Chile has shipped almost 21 per cent fewer navel oranges to the US through Week 28, or the equivalent of 153,000 15kg cases less so far this season." ...Through Week 29, market prices for value-added clementines in the 10 x 3lbs configuration have held steady at US\$32-34 for standard sizes 1-2-3-4 and US\$28-32 for size 5, the report indicated. On the navel market, conditions and prospects are also good, according to Greenberg, "Today, 40s and 48s are selling at US\$28-30, 56s at US\$ 26-28 (mostly US\$28), 64s at US\$24-26, 72s at US\$24-26 (mostly US\$24) and 88s at US\$22-24..."

Spain: citrus rinds bring alternative fuel possibility

High living costs, the economic crisis and rising fuel prices are just a few realities on the minds of Spanish scientists. Researchers at the Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena in Murcia, Spain hope to relieve some of these issues through the development of bioethanol bioetanol-citricosderived from citrus rinds... "There is production of 600,000 tons (MT) of citrus rinds a year in the Murcia region. It's a byproduct that's not being utilized and we use it for bioethanol, essential oils, etc. It can also be used for animal feed," López said. Based on these possibilities, researchers from the School of Agricultural Engineering have worked to improve conversion to ethanol from rinds leftover from mandarins, oranges, lemons and grapefruit....During this research period, the team achieved output of over 70 liters of bioethanol per 1,000 kilos of fresh orange rinds. The "steam explosion" technique allowed reduction of enzymes and improved the recovery of essential oils...

[freshfruitportal.com; 22 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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