

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (28)

John Edmonds (8 August 2013)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

United States demand for Australian oranges

Delays in Chile's citrus season and a shortage of Californian navel oranges have reduced competition for Australian fruit in the United States. Citrus importer Stu Monaghan, from DNE World, says the lack of supply has helped Australian growers. "We wish we had more fruit to sell here in the US," he said. "It seems that Chile has had a later start than we expected and of course California finished earlier this year." "Australian citrus has been in demand and the quality has been exceptional so far this year, so the season has gone quite well for us with what we've had to sell here."...It comes as South Africa's Agriculture Minister, Tina Joemat-Patterson, said she wanted more South African citrus sold into Chinese and Indian markets. Mr Perry says that would pose a threat to Australian growers.

[www.abc.net.au; 8 August 2013]

US: Chilean clementine loadings to USA begun

Chilean clementine loadings to the USA have begun what will be a quick decline as the harvest and packing season for Chilean summer clementines draws to a close. While shipments in the last few weeks have been substantially higher than over the same weeks last year, total tonnage loaded to the USA through Week 30 remains 12.2% down from last year with most of that decrease on the east coast...Absent this year is the glut of easy-peelers, and the concomitant weak pricing, that we normally see at the end of July. Instead, we have a strong market and the likelihood of a gap in easy-peeler supplies before the late mandarins arrive in any volume...The late mandarin market should open up in Week 36 and, among exporters, there are expectations of a robust market. The freeze that struck some citrus growing regions in Chile in Week 29 (with more threatened) has taken a toll on the availability of late mandarins, but the extent of the damage has not been quantified. The preliminary opinion of the Chilean Citrus Committee is that 10-15% of navel oranges and mandarins may have been "compromised". In the absence of any hard industry-wide data, many growers are sensing the increase in value of the remaining product. Navel oranges continue to enjoy a robust market characterized by good movement and healthy pricing. South Africa has so far this season, shipped 1.55 million cases of navel oranges to the east coast. This is 15% more than was shipped over the same period last season. To date, South Africa has landed three bulk vessels on the east coast with a fourth expected to arrive and discharge by the end of Week 32. In spite of the increased loadings, there has been little inventory carryover from vessel to vessel and prices in the market are stable...South African navels will continue to arrive in the market with cargo from the next bulk vessel arrival expected to be available early in Week 32. As well, increasing volumes of Chilean navels will arrive from Week 32 onward which will keep the market well supplied...The solid pricing that we have seen since the start of the season may start to soften as inventory levels inch upward. But it is expected that navel pricing will remain stable for the next few weeks...

[Freshplaza.com; 5 August 2013]

Spain: researchers develop citrus red scale treatment

Spanish researchers have found a way to eradicate major citrus pest *Aonidiella aurantii* or red scale using two types of wasps called *Comperiella bifasciata* and *Aphytis melinus*, website Finanzas.com reported. Red scale is an armored insect that can cause extensive cosmetic damage to citrus peels. The pest has been known to affect crops in several citrus producing nations, including the United States, Australia, Chile, Argentina, Mexico and South Africa. In Spain, the pest has been of particular concern in Andalusia and left growers looking for alternative management solutions, explained José Enrique González Zamora, head of the research program at Universidad de Sevilla....To avoid chemical treatment, González and his research team have suggested using biological controls such as wasps. Wasps will form colonies in the crops and regulate the pest population. The study sponsored by Riotinto Fruit and Junta de Andalucía took place over three years. Researchers from Universidad de Sevilla worked closely with the red scale-relative, the oleander scale or *Aspidiotus nerii*. They also worked on developing mass wasp production.

[www.freshfruitportal.com; 8 August 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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