GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (30)

John Edmonds (23 August 2013)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

U.S.: strong Navel orange market has softened

Capespan North America CEO Mark Greenberg said the very strong U.S. Navel orange market had softened, with Chilean arrivals now "stepping up" and the fourth bulk vessel of the fruit coming from South Africa off-loading at the end of week. In a market report for week 33, he said inventories for the fruit remained moderate and product movement was good. "Chilean navel loadings have increased steadily since Week 29 creating increased arrivals from Week 33 onward," he said. "Loadings in Week 32 were especially high as exporters worked hard to get as much fruit onto the water for arrival in the US before the September 1 start of the USDA/AMS Marketing Order for Oranges."…
"Nonetheless, we do not expect to see navel prices decline further. The combination of a generally good industry inventory position, a dearth of easy-peelers in the market until the mandarins arrive, good product quality from all origins and healthy demand for citrus, should keep the navel market stable."
Greenberg said the clementine market was winding down with continued robust prices, while Chilean W. Murcotts were expected to arrive in the market in week 36. "The W. Murcott market is expected to open up at US$42 or more for larger sizes and at US$38 for the smaller calibers as retailers refill the easy peeler pipeline," he said.
[www.freshfruitportal.com; 16 August 2013]

Egyptian citrus approved for return to U.S. market

Egyptian citrus could soon be seen on supermarket shelves across North America, after the United States Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced that it had taken the decision to allow imports of oranges and tangerines from the north African country…Oranges had been exported to the U.S. from Egypt since 1969 using cold treatment to eliminate Mediterranean fruit fly, but were halted in July 2002 due to the presence of citrus pest peach fruit fly in Egyptian orange shipments. However, despite the ban being finally lifted, some exporters were doubtful as to whether the decision would have a huge impact on the Egyptian citrus sector, at least in the short-term. Egyptian fresh produce group Pico currently exports citrus to the Netherlands and the U.K., as well as increasing volumes to Russia. The recent opening of the Chinese market to Egyptian citrus is also being studied closely by the company. According to Pico's Heike Hagenguth, the feasibility of possible entry to the US market depends very much on logistics and other costs. "Yes, we are interested in the U.S. market, but only if we have the volumes and if we can meet their specifications and their packaging material requirements," she said…Although Hagenguth said Pico was currently collaborating with a U.S. importer that could help with the technicalities of beginning citrus exports, she admitted that the higher shipping costs could hinder the process. "Logistics costs to the U.S. are somewhat more expensive than going to continental Europe, so it all depends on how feasible this is," she said. Aside from the question of shipments to the U.S., news concerning Egypt over recent months has been dominated by the ongoing unrest in the country and Hagenguth was keen to emphasise that fresh produce exports had not been adversely affected. "Ports are open and shipments are leaving normally. The only effect we have at the moment is a curfew from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m., so you have to finish everything you have to do and arrange transportations during the day. As you can imagine, we have some congestion on the roads and also some strategic roads and bridges are closed.
[www.freshfruitportal.com; 22 August 2013]

EU: more black spot interceptions for Argentina than South Africa

While South African exporters have shown hesitation in the European Union market this year due to strict citrus black spot rules, more interceptions of the disease's vector have been recorded for their Argentine counterparts to date.
New rules only allow South Africa to have five detections in a season, and until the end of July only one interception of Guignardia Citricarpa – which causes the disease – had been registered, in a shipment of oranges. While South Africa's count on the disease remains low, the European Union Notification System for Plant Health Interceptions (EUROPHYT) shows Argentina's record has been less positive. A EUROPHYT monthly report for July showed there were 8 interceptions of Guignardia Citricarpa in Argentine lemons, while two interceptions were made in June. Two interceptions of the vector were also made for Brazilian oranges in June and July. However, there is still a long way to go for the season. In 2011 and 2012, interceptions of the vector in South African fruit started to pick up in August with highs in October-November.
[www.freshfruitportal.com; 16 August 2013]

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