

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (30)

John Edmonds (30 August 2013)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

AU: Resurgence in citrus demand from US market

The outlook for Sunraysia's citrus industry is sunny, and growing brighter, with big citrus grower and packer Seven Fields reporting a resurgence in demand for Australian citrus in the western US market... "They prefer ours over the Chilean product, especially in the high-end supermarkets. Prices in the US East Coast market are still depressed by cheap Chilean navels, but in the west, they don't care about price, they just want quality."

[sunrasyiadaily.com.au; 28 August 2013]

Fifth find of CBS on South African citrus in The Netherlands

What citrus exporters have long feared, now seems to have come true. In the Netherlands, the fifth case of black spot in South African oranges has been found. Earlier, the EU threatened an import ban by the discovery of five cases. The ball is therefore now in the court of the European Commission, which has to decide what to do. According to Dutch importers shipments are still coming in as usual. The consequences are not to be underestimated. Inge Ribbens from Frugi Venta said that at the first regular meeting where this topic is on the agenda is at the end of end of September. "In the mean time South Africa will have to react to the cases found. There are not expected to be any measures will be taken this season." Press officer from the NVWA, (Dutch food agency), Tjitte Mastenbroek said that it was the decision of the European Commission whether or not to declare an import ban. "The situation at the moment is that no special measures are in place. When and if these measures have to be taken, we will monitor the situation and give the relevant information, but just now that is not an issue."

Interestingly, the counter in the Argentine citrus is already on seventeen finds. However, they may continue to export.

[www.freshplaza.com; 27 August 2013]

Argentina: Frosts condition the 2014 citrus season

Roberto Sánchez Loria, president of Tucuman Citrus Association (ATC), said that the citrus season had ended early because of the strong frost that had affected the province of Tucumán. "In our first observations we estimated a minimum damage of 20%, but our current estimates suggest that losses exceed this value. The thing is we can only see that damage over time," said Roberto Sanchez Loria. "The issues that concern us the most concern are the loss of production volumes and frost damage experienced by the plants (some plants died and others are very affected). The question is: what impact will this have on the following season?" he asked. "We believe that, as a result of the frost damage, production volumes for the year 2014 will be strongly affected. The impact of frost will be felt in 2014," he said. Sanchez Loria also analyzed the behavior of prices. "They were reasonable - very good at first. They loosened a bit as the campaign advanced, but rallied strong towards its end," he outlined. The producer acknowledged that their "major concern is the loss of competitiveness, with the exchange rate and inflation. We've already reported it to the provincial and national authorities. It's an issue that gets worse every year. This creates a strong concern as the overall profitability is increasingly affected" he said.

"How do we project 2014? It is difficult to make predictions due to the uncertainty there is because of the orchards impacted by drought and severe frosts," he noted.

[lagaceta.com.ar; 30 August 2013]

Spain: Valencian citrus exports beat the recession with record sales

The Spanish Region of Valencia's citrus sector has managed to close the 2012/2013 campaign with record export sales, after shipping almost three million tonnes of mandarins and oranges, which is 4.3% more than in the previous season.

[www.freshplaza.com; 30 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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