

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (12)

John Edmonds (12 April 2013)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Zimbabwe: "More needs to be done to monitor and research the presence of the African fruit fly"

More needs to be done to monitor and research the presence of the African fruit fly in Zimbabwe, this according to Stephen Musasa, Research Assistant at Chinhoyi University of Technology. The Rusitu Valley in Chimanimani district is located in the Natural Region I. The major income source in the Valley is centred on fruit production...

On average a smallholder farmer in Rusitu Valley owns one acre orchard with 55 orange trees. In 2011/12 season a farmer harvested 1200 kg of oranges per tree which converts to a total of 66,000 kg of orange produce. During the same season it was reported that on average a farmer lost 480 kg of oranges per tree which converts to 26,400 kg loss with a monetary value of USD 5280 since they sold oranges at USD 1.50 per 15 kg. More than 50% of interviewed Rusitu Valley smallholder farmers perceived that losses were a result of fruit fly invasion. Trapping resulted in positively identifying *Bactrocera* invaders, hence the need to develop appropriate and affordable technology for the control of insect pests especially fruit flies. "There is need for funding to help the smallholder farmers to prevent and control the invasion of African fruit fly in Zimbabwe." ... A Fruit fly awareness campaign was carried out after the Department of Research and Specialist Services Plant Protection Unit declared a fruit fly invasion in 2012.

[Freshplaza.com; 11 April 2013]

Mexico: Lime workers request protection after fatal ambush

At least eight lime industry workers were killed in Mexico's Michoacán state Wednesday in an armed clash that left a total of 14 people dead, El Universal reported... Reports of armed attacks came from various sectors of the state, including the fatal incident in the city of Apatzingán. Later in the day, a caravan of lime producer and collectors from Tepalcatepec and Buenavista reportedly suffered another attack in Apatzingán near the same division where others had been killed, El Universal reported. In the attacks on producers, an additional 16 men were allegedly injured and sent to a local hospital for treatment... Michoacán producers met with the local government Wednesday, concerned by violence that has left the industry paralyzed before the end of the packing season.... State police said they were on top of the situation and aware of the economic significance for lime growers who could potentially suffer great losses.

[freshfruitportal.com; 12 April 2013]

US (CA): Tangerine forecast up

The forecast for tangerine production in California this season is higher than it was last season. The forecast for the rest of the state's citrus crops show production relatively unchanged from last season. Tangerine production in California is forecast at 27.0 million cartons for the 2012-2013 seasons by the US Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service. That production is 24 percent higher than last season's production. Valencia orange production is forecast at 25.0 million cartons, a decrease of four percent from last season, grapefruit production is forecast at 8.2 million cartons, an increase of three percent from last season, and lemon production is forecast at 40.0 million cartons, a two percent increase from last season. Navel orange production is expected to remain unchanged from last season at 91.0 million cartons.

[Freshplaza.com; 11 April 2013]

Israeli growers wrap up steady grapefruit season

A couple of weeks after the main volumes of grapefruit from Israel wrapped up; growers are reporting an average season that had steady volume. "The season was good," said Kedem Hadarim's Nir Harel. "Most of it was good, so we can't complain." He noted that, although there was some competition from Turkey, and production from there has been increasing, it was not enough to worry Israeli grapefruit exporters. Similarly, though Florida growers turn out quality fruit that consumers are fond of, there wasn't anything there to threaten Israeli suppliers. "Florida is just on a different level," said Harel. "But they have their own market with their own season, so we don't see any problem there." It is the same with grapefruit from South Africa, since that season starts once Israeli growers are done harvesting. That situation has made for a steady market for Israel's grapefruit growers. "It's a stable market we have," said Harel. "We don't anticipate any changes in the next few years."

[Freshplaza.com; 11 April 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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