GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (13)

John Edmonds (19 April 2013) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Egyptian citrus one step closer to U.S. access

More than a decade after they were kicked from the market Egyptian citrus exporters may regain U.S. entry
The U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has released a proposed pest treatment schedule for the import of fresh Egyptian oranges and tangerines, which includes mandarins and clementines. U.S. authorities blocked access for the Middle Eastern country's citrus fruits in 2002 due to the existence of peach fruit fly (Bactrocera zonata), prompting the Egyptian national plant protection organization to request the use of cold treatment to mitigate the pest. "Because of the time that had passed since importation of oranges from Egypt was suspended, APHIS prepared a pest list to identify pests of quarantine significance that could follow the pathway of importation of oranges and tangerines from Egypt," APHIS said in a post on the Federal Register yesterday (April 18). The main pests concerned are the peach fruit fly and the Medfly (C. capitata). As the service's Plant Protection & Quarantine (PPQ) Manual does not provide a treatment schedule to mitigate peach fruit fly in tangerines and oranges, it is giving notice of a new treatment schedule it has determined to be effective. APHIS will be accepting comments on the proposal until June 17.
[freshfruitportal.com; 19 April 2013]

Pakistani kinnow fails to grip EU markets

LAHORE: Pakistani kinnow has failed to grip the European markets as it contains seeds and seedless variety is in high demand. Now the country needs to get seedless variety on a large scale to cater to the needs of European markets…Chief Executive Officer Ahmad Jawad. "Pakistan is losing the kinnow market in the EU due to excessive seeds, as buyer seeks seed-free fruit for easy eating ... still we are looking forward to have max 3 to 5 seeds in each fruit." However, research revealed that Europeans consider massive seeds to cause stomach disorder as every seed of kinnow has a specific chemical material that sometimes disturbs the stomach. Despite the fact that Pakistan is the best kinnow producing country, it suffers from lack of value addition and support from the government…By using latest technology Pakistan could enhance its exports of fresh fruit. Currently Pakistan has only 25 percent packable yield of fruit and is lowest in the world among the packable ratio.
[www.pakissan.com; 8 March 2013]

US (CA): China halts US citrus shipments

China's phytosanitary regulatory authorities informed the US Department of Agriculture's Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) that they would not be issuing phytosanitary certificates for shipments from the US to China beginning on April 18. That would effectively halt citrus exports to China…The reason given by AQSIQ in a letter to APHIS was that six shipments bound for China were found to contain a quarantine disease not found in China. Fruit currently in transit will be evaluated to see if it can enter the Chinese market…"The window for California navels in China is normally good from mid-April to early June, since local Chinese navels are finished," noted Dan Kass, director of export sales for Paramount Citrus…It's not clear how long the ban will be in place, but the CCQC reported that they would be working with industry partners to resolve the issue and open the Chinese market as soon as possible.
[Freshplaza.com; 17 April 2013]

South African citrus starts with good prices, high demand

The South African citrus season is getting underway; the first lemons have been packed and are arriving in the markets. Grapefruit is being harvested and there are limited volumes of satsumas. First satsumas have arrived and the quality is good. John Taillard from Capespan South Africa explains that most lemons are going to the Russian and Middle East markets, "Here the price is good and there is a high demand. In Europe the standards for colour are higher and there is still availability of Northern Hemisphere supply. However the European market conditions seems favourable and supply will follow." The lemon volume is expected to be comparable to last year and the grapefruit should be up and first indications are that fruit size is better, but not as big as initially expected. On the issue of a possible ban on entry to Europe if Citrus Black Spot is found Taillard, is concerned, but have confidence that the measures being applied will be affective, "It will not be necessary to find other markets, in fact it would be irresponsible, as we have many good customers in the EU. We will continue to ship to the EU. The industry is pulling out all the stops to ensure we comply to the regulations on CBS. We are being very cautious and will only ship fruit from unaffected areas." As with other fruit producers, Capespan are looking at the emerging markets such as India, Pakistan and the Far East. Taillard says, "The trend to grow in Far East and emerging markets will continue, but this should not diminish the importance of our European clients." Although there is quite some Northern Hemisphere orange supply available in Europe, we feel that the market would want to switch over to fresh South African supply.
[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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