GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (15)

John Edmonds (3 May 2013) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Announced EU measures black spot dishonest"

The proposed EU measures announced against the possible contamination by citrus black spot (CBS) on South African citrus, are dishonest, according to Gerrit van der Merwe of ALG Estates. The EU announced a possible import ban after the discovery of black spot on five occasions. According to the exporter in South Africa his orchards have been declared free of black spot by the authorities and it is not realistic, that he may possibly become the victim of black spot on citrus of other companies from different regions. Gerrit is the owner of one of the largest citrus production companies in the Olifants River Valley in South Africa, 250 km north of Cape Town. His ancestors started there, growing citrus round about 1750…During the durability seminar he spoke about the way his company handles durability in practice, amongst others by training of employees, offering day nurseries for the children not at school yet and offering education and sport facilities. Gerrit pointed to the importance of agriculture for South Africa (70% of the population is dependent on agriculture), but also on the necessary investments in the infrastructure and the necessity of organic systems and the cooperation with local workers. The aim of the company is to use as little pesticides as possible. The result of this is clear, amongst others in the increase of wild animals at the orchards. The company also uses sun panels and electricity meters.
[Freshplaza.com; 29 April 2013]

China eases ban conditions on California citrus

APHIS confirms that fruit on the water before a Chinese ban on California citrus went into effect on 17 April will now be accepted.
[ReeferTrends; 29 April 2013]

Southern Hemishere citrus exports to increase for 2013

Citrus production in the Southern Hemisphere is expected to rise by almost 10% this season on last year, while exports will increase by almost 3%; this according to figures published by SHAFFE and Freshfel. Grapefruit will have the biggest rise in export, 14.89%, and mandarins a slight decrease of 2.86%. Lemon exports will increase by 10.61% and oranges by just 0.22%. South Africa will export 15% more red grapefruit, this is due to an 'on year', in general the country will have bigger fruit sizes compared to last year. Peru is expected to produce 10% more citrus and, despite a strong domestic market should still export 10% more than last year. Argentina will see a rise in production of 17% but only a 6.31 rise in exports, this due to internal economic conditions affecting exports, there have also been delays in import licences. In Chile both production and export are slightly down, this is partly due to a drought and water shortages in the north and a smaller fruit size. Uncertain exchange rates with the US dollar are also making the domestic market a safer option.
[Freshplaza.com; 25 April 2013]

US: Orange prices jump, not as high as last year

Orange lovers are taking a hit as prices jumped over the last month.The average price of a four-pound bag of oranges increased nearly 30 percent — from $2.99 last month to $4.24 — in the latest Asbury Park Press Consumer Price Index review of commonly purchased groceries. Oranges had been dropping in price for several months, but analysts have expected a steep rise in costs due to fears of a smaller crop in Florida, the world’s second-largest orange-producing region. The increase in orange prices powered a nearly 4 percent rise over the last month in the average purchase price of common grocery items measured by the APP CPI. Although the average price of a four-pound bag of oranges is increasing, it is still far short of last August’s high of $5.49.
[Freshplaza.com; 26 April 2013]

Indonesia signals relaxation on fruit import stance

Industry representative body Citrus Australia is hopeful Indonesia will lift import restrictions on fruit by July, at the start of the mandarin season in Queensland.
[ReeferTrends; 29 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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