

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (20)

John Edmonds (7 June 2013)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

UC Riverside releases red-fleshed pummelo

The University of California, Riverside, has released Valentine, a hybrid that's part pummelo, part mandarin and part Ruby hybrid. The fruit resembles a large grapefruit that has flesh similar to blood citrus, according to a grower newsletter. It technically is a pummelo. The name is derived from the shape of the fruit that when cut lengthwise and turned upside resembles a read heart. The selections were part of crosses made originally in the 1950s that also resulted in Oroblanco and Melogold. Valentine was described and evaluated by a group comprising Toni Siebert, museum scientist; Otilia Bier, staff research associate; David Karp, pomologist; Georgios Vidalakis; director of the Citrus Clonal Protection Program; and Tracy Kahn, curator of UCR's Citrus Variety Collection. Valentine, originally known as pummelo hybrid 6C-28-18, is a cross among Siamese Sweet pummelo, Dancy mandarin and Ruby blood orange. Fruit are round to slightly pointed, with the bottom being rounded and smooth. Rind color is medium to dark yellow, with the flesh being red and seeded. The flesh is low in acidity, due to the pummelo parent, but it has a complex, floral taste from the Dancy parent. It matures in Riverside from January to March. The red flesh contains anthocyanins, which have been coveted for their potential healthful benefits. These are the same antioxidants contained in dark-colored fruits, such as pomegranates, blueberries and blackberries.

[thegrower.com; 28 May 2013]

US (FL): Funding advances battle against greening

As the short-term impact of the huanglongbing (HLB) disease - better known as greening - that has devastated Florida's citrus industry continues to worsen, \$17 million in emergency research funding from both the federal and state governments is being invested to find a solution to the crisis. A \$9 million allocation from the US Department of Agriculture will be targeted at intermediate research projects. An \$8 million commitment from the Florida legislature in the state's 2013-14 budget, which takes effect July 1, will be aimed at short-term research. The funding will be administered by the Lake Alfred-based Citrus Research Development Foundation, a nonprofit organization created in 2009 to coordinate and manage the industry's research efforts. The current portfolio of CRDF research efforts includes 140 projects, said chief operating officer Harold Browning. Among the most important are the development of disease-resistant trees and new therapies that could be used to reduce the symptoms of HLB-infected trees.

[2highlandstoday.com; 6 June 2013]

61 million in losses for Valencia's citrus sector

The Association of Valencian Growers (AVA-Asaja) has estimated at 61 million Euro the losses caused by hailstorms on citrus plantations and vineyards of Utiel-Requena, la Ribera and la Marina. In Marina Alta, which suffered the most damages, according to the association, around 10,000 hectares have been affected and losses have been estimated at 40 million Euro...COAG has asked the national and regional Governments for tax reductions, soft loans for growers in the most affected areas and extensions in the repayment of loans to young growers.

[Lasprovincias; 3 June 2013]

Argentina and South Africa deepen ag ties

Argentina and South Africa signed an agricultural agreement in Pretoria Thursday with the objective of strengthening technological and economic collaboration. Argentina's Minister of Agriculture Norberto Yauhar said the agreement would allow his nation's agricultural advancements to benefit Africa. "Agreements like this allow us to achieve scientific and technological information exchanges, to begin agricultural investigations together, develop markets and promote international business relationships," Yauhar said in a press statement...An Argentine media statement highlighted possible collaboration on small South African farmers regarding topics like planting technology and biosecurity. Talks on direct planting technology began in 2007 and encourage work between public and private institutions.

[freshfruitportal.com; 7 June 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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