

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (34)

John Edmonds (20 September 2013)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Bacteria and fungi give boost to fruit tree development

Fruit trees could reach maturity up to 40% more quickly with the help of certain fungi and bacteria, according to scientists from Mexico's Research and Advanced Studies Center (Cinvestav) in Irapuato, Guanajuato. The research published in Mexican journal Investigación y Desarrollo seeks to improve the success of reforestation techniques and improve plant survival rates. Led by Dr. Victor Olalde Portugal, the Cinvestav team uncovered the importance of microorganisms, particularly mycorrhizal, in supporting tree life, improving adaptability during transplantation and sustaining groundwater. "We found that in a three year period we can develop copies of oak, pine, mesquite and huisache trees of two to three meters in height. This process normally takes between six and seven years," Olalde Portugal said. "Applied to trees that grow citrus, apples, guava and lemons, fruit can be produced within three to four years. This normally takes six."...When mycorrhizal came in contact with the plant's roots, they began biochemical communication that allowed trees to adapt during transplantation without a problem. The microorganism was also responsible for deeper exploration into the soil and brought useful elements to the plant such as phosphorus. Plants that contained mycorrhizal also achieved more efficient photosynthesis and needed less water to function, Olalde Portugal said.

[www.freshfruitportal.com; 19 September 2013]

Zambia, Egypt mull joint fruit project

The Zambian and Egyptian governments have embarked on a joint pilot project of early maturing multipurpose fruits for juice production, the Times of Zambia reported on Monday. "Among the fruit crops being piloted are citrus fruit trees. There is hope that the plants would acclimatize with the conditions in Zambian soils," Egyptian Ambassador to Zambia Salah Abdel Sadeq was quoted as saying by the paper... The ambassador said his government, apart from providing the seedlings, also provided machinery such as tractors and technical support while Zambia provides labor and land.

[globaltimes.cn; 18 September 2013]

Larger citrus harvest expected for Morocco

After Morocco experienced its weakest export campaign for 50 years, the signs are looking good for the coming season with expected increased amounts in both production and export, reports the German Agricultural Market Information Society (AMI) on its website. According to first estimates, the citrus production in Morocco is expected to surpass last years by 35%. The weather conditions led to a good flowering period and the production area has been expanded. The amount exported last season was 100,000 tons lower because of the weather conditions of 2011/2012; Morocco is now expecting to export more than 500.000 tons.

[www.freshplaza.com; 17 September 2013]

South Africa: 2 million boxes of oranges less to EU

Eight cases have now been found and after a meeting last Friday with the EU and South African Authorities, South Africa has decided to stop the export of oranges to Europe from CBS infected areas. The EU reminded that the threshold of five cases had been reached and they wanted extra controls put in place for the rest of the season. CEO of the Citrus Growers' Association Justin Chadwick explains that they looked at all options but given the very short time frame, there was no option but to stop packing oranges for Europe, he did stress that the pest free regions of West and Northern Capes would continue packing for Europe. It was a bit early to be exact but he estimated that it would mean as much as 2 million cartons less going to the European market this season. These oranges will now be packed for the Asian, Middle East, Eastern Europe and ever growing Chinese markets. Chadwick hoped that these markets would be able to absorb the extra volumes. There is also the possibility that oranges from pest free regions which were destined for these markets would now be redirected to Europe to fill the gap. As for other counties such as Argentina, Brazil and Bangladesh, which have also had CBS detected in citrus shipped to Europe, Chadwick said that he could not comment, but that Argentina had not been under the same requirements (of 5 strikes) due to their better record of interceptions in the past.

[www.freshplaza.com; 20 September 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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