

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (36)

John Edmonds (3 October 2013)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Russia bans Pakistani fruit

Russia's Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (Rosselkhoz nadzor) began a temporary ban on the import of Pakistani plant products on Oct. 1, blocking a market that is worth US\$150-170 million to the South Asian nation. Rosselkhoz nadzor cited "systematic violations" of its phytosanitary requirements as the reason behind the ban, along with the "destabilization" of Pakistan's phytosanitary situation. Pakistan's Business Recorder reported Kinnow mandarins, mangoes and aloos (potatoes) would be the main products to suffer under the restrictions. All Pakistan Fruit and Vegetable Exporters, Importers and Merchants Association (PFVA) spokesperson Waheed Ahmed told the publication the move dealt a crushing blow to horticultural exports, urging Minister for National Food Security and Research, Sikandar Hyat Khan Bosan to act swiftly to resolve the situation.

[www.freshfruitportal.com; 3 October 2013]

US: New study offers hope for halting incurable citrus disease

The devastating disease Huanglongbing, or citrus greening, looms darkly over the United States, threatening to wipe out the nation's citrus industry, whose fresh fruit alone was valued at more than \$3.4 billion in 2012. Recently, however, a research team led by a University of California, Davis, plant scientist used DNA sequencing technologies to paint a broad picture of how citrus greening impacts trees before they even show signs of infection, offering hope for developing diagnostic tests and treatments for the currently incurable disease. The new findings indicate that the bacterial disease interferes with starch and sugar metabolism in young and mature leaves and fruit, while also wreaking havoc with hormonal networks that are key to the trees' ability to fend off infections...In this new study, the researchers studied four categories of healthy and diseased citrus trees, with the goal of better understanding how HLB affects trees physiologically during the very early stages of infection...Their analysis confirmed that in infected trees, HLB disease caused starch to accumulate in the leaves, blocking nutrient transport through the phloem and decreasing photosynthesis. They also found that normal metabolism of sucrose, a sugar also key to photosynthesis, was disrupted. Furthermore, the researchers discovered that HLB interfered with the regulation of hormones such as salicylic acid, jasmonic acid and ethylene, which are "the backbone" of the plant innate immune response. And they found that infected trees also had changes in the metabolism of important amino acids that serve as a reservoir for organic nitrogen in many plants. The nitrogen is required to stimulate the plant immune response.

[news.ucdavis.edu; 3 October 2013]

OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Peru exported 97,450 tons of citrus by the end of the 2013 season

The ProCitrus guild informed that Peruvian citrus exports reached 97,450 MT, thus meeting the expectations of agricultural exporters, who had estimated this year's shipments would increase by 11% compared to last year. In this regard, Sergio Castillo, president of the guild of citrus growers, reported that Britain was Peru's main destination, accounting for 33% of shipments. It was followed by the Netherlands with 23%, the U.S. with 20% and Canada with 12%. A total of 97,450 MT were sent until mid- September. 56% of shipments were of tangerines, 31% of tangelos, 10% of oranges and 3% of grapefruit and lemons...However, he stressed that, just like avocados, the citrus campaign should have ended in August, but that shipments had continued for two more weeks as there were still late crops of orange in Ica and Lima. "With these shipments, we might even end the year with a 12% growth," he said...On the other hand, the local market has been good... Peruvians consume 90% of what is produced in the country," he analyzed. Finally, he projected that shipments would increase in 2014. "If there is no climatic anomaly in the coming months, there will be a good harvest for the next season. Moreover, the citrus for export that has been planted in the last four years, at least 1,500 new hectares, will be coming into production," he said. "There will be more fruit available for that activity," he said, adding that they are also working with the National Service of Agrarian Health (Senasa) to establish phytosanitary protocols for entry of Peruvian citrus into Brazil, Korea, Japan and other Asian countries.

[Agraria.pe; 1 October 2013]

U.S.: California expects strong citrus year, despite doubt in China

Following what was considered a strong showing in 2012, volume should reach close to last season, said Paul Story, director grower services at California Citrus Mutual. "The Mandarin crop is a little larger in volume than last year. The Navel crop is going to be slightly smaller than the crop we had last year, which was a good sized crop but not a bumper crop," he told www.freshfruitportal.com. The caveat to the season's high expectations, however, will be lingering doubt in the Chinese market. China took California by surprise this past April after it banned citrus from the U.S. state, citing phytosanitary concerns from *Phytophthora syringae*, or brown rot.

[www.freshplaza.com; 23 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 [john@cga.co.za](mailto:johne@cga.co.za)

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