

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (40)

John Edmonds (8 November 2013)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

More Chinese pomelo's have already arrived than the whole of last season"

Even before the start of the Chinese pomelo import season, importers from De Groot International were convinced that there were larger volumes available for export to Europe than last year. Now that the season is under way it appears that the prediction is true. With just a few import weeks to go, the amount of pomelos are already equal to last year's entire season. During the annual visit to China, the suppliers visited Pinghe, which is where today's pomelo's come from. Compared to the former Guangdong pomelo it is juicier and does not have seeds... This season China has worked well on the MRL situation (maximum residue limits) with the recently formed Pomelo Association. This association was co-founded by former employees of the state and pomelo warehouses. This appears to have paid off, as so far there have been no MRL problems reported in the 25% of incoming containers by the VWA...

[Freshplaza.com; 29 October 2013]

South Africa: citrus industry welcomes black spot response

The Citrus Growers Association (CGA) of Southern Africa praised an expert panel report submitted last month to the European Union in response to alleged risk of citrus black spot via fruit imports. "It is the first time in the history of the citrus industry that such an august body of scientists have worked together to determine the risk of establishment and spread of a pest or disease associated with citrus. Scientists from Brazil, Argentina, USA, Uruguay, Australia and South Africa collaborated and shared their considerable expertise on the disease," CGA CEO Justin Chadwick said. The report outlines a number of points in opposition to the July publication by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) that established "moderately likely" risk of citrus black spot spread through trade. "CBS has never been reported to spread to new areas with fruit (without leaves) as the pathway and accordingly citrus fruit has never been demonstrated to be a pathway for the entry, establishment and spread of CBS," the response paper said. "CBS has a wide global distribution, but is only known to occur in summer rainfall citrus production areas and nowhere in the world in areas with a Mediterranean climate."

[freshfruitportal.com; 28 October 2013]

AU: Citrus growers asked for more research money

Citrus Australia says it has broad support for an increase to the levy growers pay for research and development. There's been no change to Citrus Australia's research and development levy in the past 20 years and, in that time, regional citrus boards have been disbanded. Citrus Australia CEO Judith Damiani says more money is needed to help the industry move forward. "The biggest priority for our industry is market access, improving our access and our protocols, looking to reduce tariffs, through free trade agreements," she said. "And also making sure that our pest status remains as it is, very clean and green, so biosecurity is the second biggest priority for our industry." Currently growers pay a levy of \$2 per tonne of fruit sold, but it's likely that would be increased by an additional \$1.50 to \$2 per tonne to fund new research projects. Ms Damiani says while there is grower support for the research levy, more debate is needed on broadening and increasing the industry levy to fund marketing programs. "There is a marketing, or promotion, levy. At the moment, it's 75 cents a tonne on oranges only. It doesn't raise a lot of money, so it's a very difficult thing for us to do in terms of promoting Australian oranges, particularly when we've got so many markets." Ms Damiani says there needs to be further consultation with growers about increasing the levy to fund the marketing of Australian oranges and mandarins. "That's certainly something that will be a bit more of a challenging discussion."

[abc.net.au; 28 October 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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