

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (6)

John Edmonds (28 February 2014)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Spain: Lemon harvest prospects reduced to 860,000 tonnes

According to the Lemon and Grapefruit Interprofessional Association (AILIMPO), the Spanish lemon campaign has been positive up until January, despite a rocky start caused by excess heat and smaller calibres. "These problems were already sorted and I believe we can rate the Fino lemon campaign as successful, with moderately good prospects. Prices have been quite satisfactory for growers and the industry is processing larger volumes than usual. Exports are going well, as there were no accumulated stocks in Argentina or South Africa and the Spanish produce has dominated," explains José Antonio García, director of AILIMPO. As for production volumes, of the 910,000 tonnes originally expected, it appears only 860,000 tonnes will be harvested. "We have reduced our prospects for September's harvest due to issues with calibres," states José Antonio García. Of that total, around 130,000 tonnes will be distributed in the domestic market, while approximately 500,000 tonnes will be exported and between 220,000 and 240,000 will go to the processing industry. 93% of those exports will be shipped to the EU, with Germany as the main destination, followed by France and the UK. Outside the EU, there is a long list of clients in countries such as Switzerland, Algeria, Brazil, Hong Kong or Canada, although these are much smaller volumes....Regarding prices, José Antonio García says that "they have been significantly higher than the production costs during the past two campaigns. Fino lemons stand at 0.27 to 0.30 Euro/kilo at origin, with production costs of between 0.17 and 0.19 Euro/kilo. We have found some stability and we hope everything continues this way." ...The situation, however, is not as good for grapefruit, with negative results and low levels of demand. While Spain dominates the lemon market, the country is a very small grapefruit supplier, standing behind producers such as Israel, Turkey and Florida.

[Freshplaza.com; 27 February 2014]

"Argentina expects a lot less lemons this year"

It's reasonably calm in the lemon market at the moment. This is according to Peter Maes of Zeghers. "The quality of the Spanish lemons is great and there are no problems in the supply. We are continuing with the sales of the variety Primofiori as long as the quality is good. I expect this to be until the middle or end of April. Then we will start the variety Vernas. It's not a hugely desired variety, but according to my information the quality will be very good. There is also enough production. I expect a price correction. The prices are quite low at the moment, so they usually go up a little." ...He indicates that they are receiving less good information from Argentina. "The season started later and according to the latest reports from this country there is 40 to 50% less production. But I question this, as it still has to be proven. As long as the quality is better than last season I'll be happy. We'll figure out the rest."

[Freshfruitportal.com; 10 February 2014]

Egypt positive about current orange season in Europe

Large sized oranges (32-48) are coming primarily from Egypt this year and the medium and small sizes are coming mostly from Spain and Greece. "That is the exact opposite of the previous season," tells Walid Arafah. "The good news for Spanish orange producers is that as a result of the bad weather, volumes of large and medium sizes are limited. Demand for the smaller sizes can easily be filled by Spain. Egypt has very small volumes of those sizes." ...Egyptian Oranges reserved a good position in the Russian market, not without incidental embargoes (mostly stemming from political issues)...Weather made the large sized Egyptian oranges possible. Temperatures reached up to 10 degrees during the night in the end of October-beginning of November, and there were fortunately no hail storms. This gave the Navel (winter Oranges) a great colour while still on the trees, with less risk for the Mediterranean fruit fly, which had negatively affected production and exports in previous years. Egyptian Mineola's have arrived and are doing really well in regards to quality and shape. The Mineola's are MRL friendly and have sold for good prices so far, with prices reaching up to 9 Euro at the beginning of season..."The summer orange (Valencia) season started about 3 weeks ago, which is from our experience is very low high risk of being infected with the 'Mediterranean Fruit Fly'. The surface of the fruit is completely closed and the proactive safe resistance treatment has been applied. The colour is completely orange, it is 70% juice and, as usual, the flavour is wonderful. "The market is looking good, and the excellent quality helps us promote the products at a competitive price," said Walid. "The expectation for Egyptian orange prices, a level of around 8 Euro should be realistic. That is a real presentation for Egyptian oranges in Europe."

[Freshplaza.com; 25 February 2014]

Spanish researchers develop antioxidant-rich oranges

Scientists in Spain have created an orange cultivar with a variety of potentially beneficial traits, including higher beta-Carotene in the pulp and a flowering period of just four months. CSIC oranges. The Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) conducted a lab study to develop the oranges, in conjunction with the Valencian Institute of Agricultural Research and technological company CSIC Biopolis, with results published in the Plant Biotechnology Journal. In essence, laboratory processes created a plant that takes less time to produce fruits that obtain a higher content of beta-Carotene....A CSIC release said the oranges obtained had an intense golden color, and had up to 36 times more beta-Carotene in the pulp than traditional varieties. Experiments then showed that the antioxidant effect of juices from these oranges was 20% higher than in a control group of oranges. A CSIC spokesperson confirmed that while the process involved is classified as genetic modification (GM), no new genes have been inserted. "We have just incorporated a fragment of DNA that blocks the synthesis of determined carotenoids so that others are accumulated," he told www.freshfruitportal.com.

[freshfruitportal.com; 28 February 2014]

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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