# GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (17)

John Edmonds (16 May 2014) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

**Korean fruit imports triple in last 10 years**

Both the volume and diversity of Korea's imported fruits have grown in the past decade since the country first began signing free trade agreements in 2003, the Korea Customs Service said Tuesday. A trend analysis revealed that Korea's fruit imports have increased 3.3 times in terms of value and 1.5 times in quantity…The United States has remained Korea's largest fruit source since 2012 when it provided 37.9 percent of Korea's imports, while the Association of Southeast Asian Nations was close behind with 35.5 percent, followed by Chile with 17.6 percent and Peru with 1.6 percent…In 2003, the biggest fruit imports were oranges at 39.4 percent and bananas in second place at 31.8 percent, but the trend has turned, with bananas coming out on top at 27.3 percent last year, followed by oranges at 21 percent. Grape imports also grew a considerable amount from 7.5 percent in 2003 to 20.3 percent in 2013. Moreover, with the rise in imports of lemons, mangos, grapefruit and other fruit, the selection is proving to have diversified.
*[Freshplaza.com; 14 May 2014]*

**Mixed views on European market for South African citrus growers**

Geography and weather have spread South African citrus growers across a wide spectrum of outlooks for the 2014 season, which also ties in to how different exporters view their prospects in Europe. Core Fruit citrus technical manager Steve Turner said he was more cautious over the EU market than last year, partly due to a late Spanish season. "There has been a much longer overlap of varieties of Spanish soft citrus, such as mandarins, which has overall led to a tougher market for easy peelers…Unseasonal late rains in the north of the country this year have meant that Core Fruit will have to wait longer this year to pick many varieties of easy peelers. "It's generally been quite good conditions, but a bit of late summer rain and patches of hail in the northern area hasn't helped our early soft citrus such as Satsumas," he added. Elsewhere in South Africa, producers have reported that they are feeling very optimistic about the European market this season. Everseason director Stiaan Engelbrecht does not share the same concerns as Turner regarding easy peelers in the EU. "Overall I don't think the market is that good, but it is looking very good for easy peelers. The European market is strong, the U.K. market is strong, and the U.S. as well. They are all looking very strong," Engelbrecht said. Despite the positive feeling toward easy peelers generally in Europe, Engelbrecht reported that he is much less optimistic about key varieties of oranges in the continent, mainly due to an abundance of the fruit coming from Spain and parts of northern Africa. "The Navel market is still a little bit depressed, with too much product from Eygpt, Morocco and Spain still in the European market, and a lot of volume available from other parts of the Northern Hemisphere," he added…
*[www.freshfruitportal.com; 14 May 2014]*

**Chilean citrus to have positive season in U.S. market**

Chile's International Citrus Seminar, which was attended by more than two hundred and fifty producers and exporters...was held on Wednesday April 7th... "The current export season has been, undoubtedly, one of the most complex that our industry has faced, as a result of the frosts in September 2013, the severe drought in several of the northern and central regions of the country, and the port shutdowns…" said Ronald Bown during his inaugural address. The union leader added: "…we are negotiating tariff reductions in Korea and Japan, opening the Mexican market for our limes and our clementines…Additionally, we are close to achieving authorization for our entire citrus portfolio into the Brazilian market, which we hope will be formalized within the next few weeks…Manuel José Alcaino, director of Decofrut, said that, despite the low volumes forecast, the Chilean citrus export season had good prospects in the U.S. market, their main target, because of the frost in California during the month of December 2013 that affected the U.S. production of mandarins (-32 %), oranges (-30%) and limes (-20 %)...Regarding this season's total national citrus export estimates, Alcaino said that..the mandarin and clementine exports would decrease by 4 %, amounting to 61,046 tons, and that orange exports would fall by 10%, to 67,028 tons.
*[Freshplaza.com; 15 May 2014]*

**Australian assistance for RSA citrus growers**

…With agricultural producers organisations such as Copa-Cogeca putting pressure on the EU to take a more heavy-handed approach this year, Citrus Australia's market development manager Andrew Harty believes South African exporters may be inclined to seek alternate export markets from the outset of this season. With an established foothold in a number of Asian markets, Harty said the Far East would be a logical choice of replacement market for the South African industry…To avoid an influx in head-on competition, and the prospect of saturation in key markets, Australia is assisting the South African industry with their push to retain European access. "We feel there is no justification for any potential ban," Harty said. "It's been scientifically proven that fruit is not a pathway for the transmission of black spot. We feel market access should not be based on lobbying by domestic industries but on scientific evidence."
*[Fruitnet; 30 Apr 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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