# GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (18)

John Edmonds (23 May 2014) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

**Argentina: Senasa confirms lemon dispatch delay**

Argentina's National Food Health and Quality Service (Senasa) has confirmed that heavy rains in the northern province of Tucumán have led to fewer shipments of lemons to port for export, website Infocampo.com.ar reported. The story reported that despite the rains, Senasa said the packed fruit was "of good health and quality, and there have not been detections of quarantine diseases"...Citrus grower Diana Chediack told newspaper La Gaceta de Tucumán the situation could foster the appearance of black spot and canker in crops. "On average, it is estimated there will be 60% less lemons than in the 2013 campaign, which means there will be lower demand for labor," Chediack was quoted as saying.
*[Freshfruitportal.com; 19 May 2014]*

**Disaster looms for Moroccan citrus shippers:**
Industry association ASPAM warns that up to 120,000 tonnes of clementines may generate a zero return this season.
*[Reefertends.com; 15 May 2014]*

**California citrus exports may return to China**
Last year the Chinese government shut the door to California fresh citrus after some export samples were discovered with brown rot, a move that likely cost the state's fresh citrus industry tens of millions of dollars. That door may be opening once again. An announcement that the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) reached an agreement with China's phytosanitary regulatory agency on cultural practices, preharvest treatments, packinghouse inspections and an inspection visit to California citrus operations by Chinese technical officers suggests California citrus could once-again be exported to China.
*[westernfarmpress.com; 18 May 2014]*

**Russia refuses oranges from Egypt**
Recent data reveals that, throughout this week, the Russian phytosanitary service returned several batches of oranges from Egypt. The tests developed by the Russian phytosanitary control service on all of the shipments that reached the 200 tons showed that these batches were contaminated with the fruit fly, a pest that is banned in Russia. Throughout the last four months, more than 20 shipments, amounting to nearly 1,000 tons, infected by this plague have been detected and returned to their countries of origin. 95 percent of the oranges returned by Russia because of this plant infection, were imported from Egypt.
*[Freshplaza.com; 19 May 2014]*

**"Lemons are a hot item at the moment"**
The Spanish orange season is being characterised as the worst season even. "Due to the warm weather without a cold period, the citrus fruit was not in demand over the last few months. As well as this, an oversupply of Egyptian and Moroccan oranges caused huge price pressure," explains Toine van Hoof of FRS Holland, the sales office of the Spanish citrus exporter Frutas Romu, which, with three packaging stations in the areas Valencia-Murcia-Castellon, has an export volume of around 50,000 tonnes per year... But the whole citrus market was not bad. The sales of mandarins went reasonably quick after a tough start and the Nadorcott season has been good," says Toine. "We are also still receiving a sufficient supply of oranges from Spain. The Valencia season is starting slowly, but I can see the Spanish Valencias losing market space to Egypt and Morocco in the long term. The size division on the tree isn't that good in Spain and these oranges are being sold on the local market more and more, and more focus is being placed on the late Navel varieties at the cost of the Valencias."..."Lemons are a hot item at the moment," says Toine. "The Spanish Verna lemons are well paid for and very limited volumes are expected from Argentina. The industry prices in Argentina are rocketing. It will be an expensive lemon year regardless. There is talk of 40 to 50% less from Argentina and figures indicate that up until week 18 90% less lemons were loaded compared to last year." According to the importer it is impossible to tell how the South African season will go. "The EU has hardly spoken about the measures concerning black spot. This is why we are concentrating more and more on the black spot free fruit coming from Zimbabwe, which is a good alternative for our customers. There is also the big question of what Russia will do and what volumes the producers dare send to Russia. South African producers will want to send as much as possible straight to Russia, but on the other hand, they can't do without Europe. At the moment importing is more expensive for the Russians due to the devaluation of the ruble and many Ukrainian consumers are not thinking about oranges. This does have a negative effect of the price formation. The expectation is that the size division of the South African citrus will be different and that there will be slightly less volumes. I expect a similar price level as last year."
*[Freshplaza.com; 20 May 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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