

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (21)

John Edmonds (13 June 2014)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

USDA's 2013-2014 Florida Orange Crop Forecast decreases

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) monthly forecast of the 2013-2014 Florida orange crop, released Wednesday, decreased 6 million boxes to 104.3 million boxes. Early-mid varieties accounted for 53.3 million boxes while Valencias dropped 6 million boxes to 51 million boxes...During the 2012-2013 season, Florida produced 133.6 million boxes of oranges. Click here for the complete USDA estimate. The USDA's estimate of the 2013-2014 Florida grapefruit crop stayed at 15.6 million boxes. Speciality fruit held steady at 3.83 million boxes...The Florida citrus industry creates a \$9 billion annual economic impact, employing nearly 76,000 people, and covering about 525,000 acres. Founded in 1948, Florida Citrus Mutual is the state's largest citrus grower organization.
www.flcitrusmutual.com; 13 June 2014]

Peruvian citrus varieties pass the bar for Japan-bound export

Peruvian citrus fruit has successfully passed scientific tests that determined it was safe to be transported to Japan free of pests, according to a story by Gestion.pe. The tests were recently completed by Peru's National Agricultural Health Service (SENASA) which worked alongside specialists from Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), evaluating the effects of cold treatment on Satsumas. The story said the tests included cold treatment of the fruit at 2.1°C (35.8°F) for 18 days, and 3°C (37.4°F) for 23 days, to assess whether it would stop possible infestations of the Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata*) from reaching Japanese territory. The treatment was able to eliminate every one of the 17,000 or so larvae present in the fruit and so could be used when transporting the fruit from Peru to the Asian island. According to the story, SENASA will now send the official report of the test results to MAFF which will then analyze the data and integrate it into a proposal. Experimental tests began in 2009 under an agreement between the two national agriculture services, with the aim of lifting restrictions on several Peruvian citrus varieties including Sataumas, Clementines, Minneola tangelos, and Lane Late and Washington navel oranges. The research was conducted with funding from the Peruvian Citrus Growers Association and was developed by SENASA. [Freshfruitportal.com; 11 June 2014]

South African summer citrus arriving in U.S.

The season's first citrus from South Africa has arrived in the U.S. marking the start of the 15th season for South African Summer Citrus in the U.S. The container vessel MSC Valvik brings 90 tons of Clementines and Navel oranges for the U.S. market hungry for citrus fruits... "For a variety of reasons, many weather related, domestic citrus supplies in the U.S. are at more reduced levels than in seasons' past," said Ms. Suhanra Conradie, CEO of the Western Cape Citrus Producers Forum (W.C.C.P.F.). "To meet this immediate demand, we expect to send nearly twice as much citrus at this time as compared to initial shipments of 2013." ... "Easy Peelers better known in the market as Clementines are in high demand in the U.S. and this initial shipment brings more of those than Navels," said Ms. Conradie. "That will adjust later in the season when the volume of Navels increases. Star Ruby grapefruit and Cara Cara oranges begin arriving in late June."...Consumer access to the South Africa Summer Citrus will be more rapid in 2014 than in recent years. A pilot program reducing the cold sterilization from 24 to 22 days is underway for the 2014 season. Citrus from South Africa is shipped at a temperature of -0.5°C or 31°F to avoid chemical fumigation on arrival. Science confirms that 22 days is sufficient to assure no pests can arrive with the fruit...Strong relationships with importers and retailers in the U.S. and close collaboration before and throughout the season assure the preferred sizes and volumes are shipped at the correct market time. "Smaller fruit yields well for the growing popularity of bagged fruit in the U.S. market," said Ms. Conradie. "In all cases, fruit to the U.S. exceeds the internal quality requirements and is packed to assure it exceeds the strictest of fruit safety regulations." ...The program began in 1999 with 50 tons and has grown to +/- 41,000 tons per year. South African citrus exported to the U.S. is grown primarily in the Western and Northern Cape regions.
[Freshplaza.com; 11 June 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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