GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (22)

John Edmonds (20 June 2014) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Difficult season for Egyptian citrus

It appears that Egypt will hold on to its position as the sixth largest orange producer in the world and second largest exporter in the 2013/14 season. Orange production this year reached about 2.5 million tons, with exports totalling 1.1 million tons – about 10% more than last season. The increase in both production and export is due to the increase in acreage and the positive conditions during growth. Domestic consumption shows a small increase. Especially in winter, oranges are popular. Local market prices though, fluctuate strongly. In developing regions, oranges can be extremely cheap, while being much more expensive in wealthier residential areas. As a result of the economic and political situation in Egypt, many fruits and vegetables have increased in price. Still, the orange remains the cheapest fruit. Bananas, apples but also grapes tend to be much more expensive...The Navel is the most cultivated variety and represents 60% of total production... For export, Navel and Valencia are especially important. These often go to Russia, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates and Iraq. In terms of export, South Africa is Egypt's biggest competitor, but Turkey, Spain, Morocco, USA, China, Australia and Argentina also put up hefty competition. In response, Egypt continues to look for new markets. According to Egypt, export rates aren't the only obstacle. Other factors are at play. Turkey for instance, has a clear geographical advantage when it comes to export to Russia. This provides lower transportation costs and shorter shipping time. South Africa makes full use of its Southern-hemisphere location by shipping out Valencia's from July to September, while the harvest in Egypt begins in December. Many markets are already saturated before Egypt is able to offload its produce.
[Freshplaza.com; 17 June 2014]

Seville oranges thrive in the Florida sunshine

Characterized by a rough, thick and bumpy, deep, rose-coloured peel, Seville oranges are one of the more sour citrus varieties...Seville oranges are most commonly used in marmalades...One of the first orange varieties transported to the New World, the sour citrus fruit gets its name from Seville, Spain, where they were highly cultivated in the 12th century. From Spain, the orange made its way through the Caribbean, South Central and North America. A community founded by Spaniards, St. Augustine saw its first sour orange seeds in the 16th century. By 1763, Seville oranges had been adopted by most early settlers and local Indians.
[Freshplaza.com; 17 June 2014]

Botswana imposes restrictions on orange imports

The Botswana government have announced restrictions on the importation of oranges in a move aimed at protecting local growers. In a correspondence released on Saturday, the Ministry of Agriculture said that restrictions on the importation of oranges includes all types of sweet oranges (navels, valencia, naartjies and mineola). "This new development is necessitated by the increased local production of other sweet oranges namely naartjies and mineola," reads the statement. The correspondence further explained that the restrictions therefore help the local producers to enter the market. For many years, Botswana has been largely dependent on her southern neighbour, South Africa, for all types of fruits including oranges. Botswana spends over 23.7 million U. S. dollars per annum importing 34,000 tonnes of fruits and vegetables to supplement the 41,000 tonnes produced locally...Estimated local production of oranges currently stands at 5,691 tons of ordinary oranges, 56 tons of Mineola and 45.5 tons of naartjies, reads the press release. "Local farmers are reporting low volumes of sale despite the good quality of their oranges due to influx of imports," said the ministry...
[coastweek.com; 16 June 2014]

Chilean citrus exporters forecast less trade with U.S.

Chilean citrus exporters are likely to diversify their markets in the future, shifting focus away from the U.S. and onto places like Europe to fill the space left by South African growers. Fruit market consultant Decofrut told www.freshfruitportal.com South Africa was giving more attention to the U.S. market due to EU import restrictions due to citrus black spot (CBS). "An important situation is what's happening in Europe with the South African production. As a result of these restrictions the EU has put on South Africa, two things will happen," Decofrut president Manuel Jose Alcaino said. "Firstly, South Africans are going to try and compensate by sending more fruit to other markets like the U.S, and secondly, it is going to create a demand and dissatisfaction in the European market. "You have to be very alert with what is happening in Europe with South Africa, because that can upset the citrus supply and demand balance completely." Alcaino expressed concern Chile had become too reliant on the U.S. market, which he said received around 90% of Chilean orange, clementine and mandarin exports
[Freshfruitportal.com; 17 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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