GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (23)

John Edmonds (27 June 2014) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Spain: Valencia fruit industry racked by hail

A range of fruit crops in regions of eastern Spain have been destroyed by severe hailstorms that have taken out a variety of Valencian export lines. Hail stones the size of golf balls violently rained down in Valencia on Tuesday with disastrous consequences, according to the Valencian Farmers Association (AVA-ASAJA). Early estimates calculate approximately 45,000 hectares of citrus, persimmons and melons have been badly affected with between 60-100% of the crops damaged... It is too early to know how much of the fruit can be salvaged, but the growers' association confirms this week's storm will... badly affect the 2014-15 citrus and persimmon campaigns....The regions of Ribera, Safor, Navarrés, Antella, Alberic, Carcaixent, Massalavés, Énova and Cárcer were among the worst hit...

[Freshfruitportal.com; 26 June 2014]

Australian lemons in 'massive demand', says grower

Australian lemon growers are set for a highly lucrative season this year due to very strong domestic and international markets, according to one citrus producer.Fresh Produce Group general manager of exports, Brian Charles, told www.freshfruitportal.com the fruit would perform far better this year compared to other popular citrus fruits like oranges and easy peelers."The variety in Australia that is in massive demand at the moment, domestically and export, is lemons. The lemon market is very strong in Australia," Charles said. "There are a couple of reasons – obviously the American volumes have been affected by frost and drought, and it's my understanding that the lemon market is just strong worldwide." California, one of the U.S.'s largest citrus producers, experienced devastating frosts last winter that led to an average crop loss of 30%....Charles said although Chile and South Africa were Australia's biggest citrus competitors, the countries seasons peak in different months and last for different lengths of time. "South Africa is significant competition during our winter months, which is June, July and August, but by late August they're virtually done with their Navels and into things like Midknight Valencias," he said. "The best three months for Australian citrus up into Asia is September, October, November because we're the only ones who have got Navels. Other Southern Hemisphere competition have moved on to Valencias by then....Charles also said he expected the company to significantly increase trade with China, while exports to Japan and the U.S. would take a back seat...

[Freshfruitportal.com; 25 June 2014]

Argentina expects Vietnamese access for blueberries, citrus

Governmental authorities from Argentina and Vietnam have signed a recognition agreement that is expected to foster exports of agricultural and seafood products, according to a release from the South American country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Culture. The release said Argentina exported US$1.3 billion worth of goods to Vietnam in 2013, with a trade surpluse of US$1.1 billion. "Products from the agri-food sector represented a high percentage of these exports," the release said... "The agreement also opens the door to the future export of fruits from our country to Vietnam; in this regard, it is expected that the access processes for citrus and blueberries will be concluded soon," the release said.
In turn, Vietnam will also be able to export seafood products to Argentina under the deal.

[Freshfruitportal.com; 23 June 2014]

Argentina increases orange production

According to a half-year report of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Argentina's fresh orange production during the business year 2013/2014 is estimated to increase to 700,000 tonnes; 150,000 over the official estimates, due to the fact that plants recovered well from last year's frosts. Furthermore, the total volume of oranges for processing is estimated to double, reaching 240,000 tonnes, as a result of increased production and lower projected exports.
Regarding fresh mandarins (tangerines), the production for the business year 2013/2014 is estimated to increase to 300,000 tonnes...and exports are expected to remain stable at 90,000 tonnes. Lastly, mandarins for processing are expected to reach 60,000 tonnes due to increased production...Fresh lemons will reach 750,000 tonnes, which represents a 45 % drop compared to the previous year. This is mainly the result of the frosts registered during the winter of 2013 and the subsequent drought that affected many of the producing areas. As for lemon exports, these will be reduced to 180,000 tonnes; 70,000 less than officially estimated, due to the lower production.
At the moment, one of the sector's main concerns is the continued increase in production costs (labour, materials, energy, land and sea transport), as a result of a high inflation rate, which is causing a significant loss of competitiveness amongst local exporters, in addition to intermittent strike actions.

[Freshfruitportal.com; 24 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
YOUR LEVY WORKING FOR YOU – GROWER LEVIES ARE USED TO FUND THE ACTIVITIES OF CGA