GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (28)

John Edmonds (4 August 2014) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

USDA considers allowance of two Unshu orange hybrids from South Korea

USDA is proposing to amend the regulations concerning the importation of citrus fruit to allow the importation of commercial consignments of two Unshu orange hybrids from the Republic of Korea into the United States. These hybrids would be eligible for importation into the United States subject to the existing conditions for the importation of Unshu oranges from the Republic of Korea, stated the USDA. "We would also make one minor change to the existing regulations by adding an explicit statement that only commercial consignments of Unshu oranges would be eligible for importation into the continental United States. The proposed changes would remove the prohibition on the importation of Unshu orange hybrids that can safely enter the United States, provided that certain conditions are met, and would codify an existing requirement. We will consider all comments that we receive on or before September 29, 2014."
[Freshplaza.com; 31 July 2014]

Record year for Spanish lemons

A bumper harvest, coupled with lower volumes arriving from Southern Hemisphere suppliers and Turkey, helped push Spanish lemon exports to a new record this season. According to the latest figures from lemon and grapefruit interprofessional Ailimpo, shipments increased by 7 per cent to 560,000 tonnes during the 2013/14 campaign. With Argentine production down by 50 per cent, and South African shipments hit by stricter phytosanitary controls in the wake of the citrus black spot outbreak, demand across all European markets was buoyant. As a result of the strong prices, Ailimpo said it had been a profitable year for growers. Shipments to the UK, France and Italy registered double-digit growth, rising by 25 per cent, 16 per cent and 13 per cent respectively. In total, the European Union absorbs around 90 per cent of Spain's export total. Ailimpo said sendings to non-EU markets had also risen sharply, notably in Canada and Brazil. A decision by Turkey to target a greater share of its export volume to eastern markets such as Russia and Ukraine also boosted demand for Spanish lemons this year. Lemon production reached 970,000 tonnes this season, an 18 per cent increase on last year's total. Fino accounted for 72 per cent of this total and Verna for the remaining 28 per cent. Ailimpo said investments in improved farming techniques had resulted in higher yields and better quality this season.
[Fruitnet.com; 24 July 2014]

Typhoon hits China's orange plantations

Asian Citrus Holdings has said that Typhoon Rammasun has caused widespread damage to its orange plantations in southern China, reports Agrimoney. While the financial impacts of the typhoon are yet to be assessed, Asian Citrus said the damage done to its Hepu orange plantation in Guangxi is significant. The typhoon hit northern Vietnam and the Philippines as well as China last week, resulting in an estimated 150 deaths. The strongest storm to hit China in four decades has caused heavy rainfall and flooding, causing an estimated US$1.7bn worth of damage to China's Hainan island alone, according to Agrimoney. While the damage from Typhoon Rammasun is still being assessed, southern China is bracing itself for Typhoon Matmo, which hit Taiwan earlier this week.
[Fruitnet.com; 24 July 2014]

"Good demand for mandarins and Navels; grapefruits struggling"

The Spanish Navel season is over. Several retailers will switch to South African produce in the coming weeks. According to Jan Rozema from Olympic Fruit, demand for Navels is good. "We are expecting a stable market in the coming weeks. Grapefruit is struggling this season, while the mandarin market is good. The coming weeks will see a supply of Clemenules and Clemennovas. The first Or & Nadorcott mandarins are expected at the end of July."...The announced measurements regarding Citrus Black Spot when exporting to Europe, have had a significant impact on South African producers, according to Jan. "A large number of growers can't export to Europe. There are also a large number of growers who will not risk it, selling their produce in other parts of the world instead, such as Russia, along with the Middle and Far East. Europe is still important to South Africa, but a lot of alternatives have come up during the past few years, which has had its effect on the volumes...."
[Freshplaza.com; 25 July 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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