

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (38)

John Edmonds (10 October 2014)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Grapefruit juice 'could be the key to weight loss'

Drinking grapefruit juice instead of water could be the key to weight loss, according to a study by the University of California. The research published in Plos One, found that mice put on the same high-fat diet gained far less weight if they were given the juice to drink instead of water. The study also found improved levels of blood sugar and insulin among those given the juice, protecting against diabetes. Scientists said the juice appeared to work as well as the prescription drug metformin which is used to treat diabetes... The study found that mice fed a high-fat diet gained 18 percent less weight when they drank clarified, no-pulp grapefruit juice compared with a control group of mice that drank water. Juice-drinking mice also showed improved levels of glucose, insulin and a type of fat called triacylglycerol compared with their water-drinking counterparts. The study authors randomly divided mice into six groups, including a control group that drank only water. The researchers also added glucose and artificial sweeteners to the control group's water so that it would match the calorie and saccharin content of the grapefruit juice. At the end of the study period, the mice that drank diluted grapefruit juice not only gained less weight than their control counterparts, they also had a 13 to 17 percent decrease in blood glucose levels and a threefold decrease in insulin levels. Some mice were fed a diet that was given a 60 percent fat, while others were put on a 10 per cent fat diet for 10 days. The study did not find as big an impact on mice that ate a low-fat diet.

[Telegraph.co.uk; 8 October 2014]

Pakistan: Kinnow to follow in mangoes' footsteps

After registering mango farms, the government has started surveying kinnow orchards in an attempt to standardise its exports to the European Union (EU) and other markets. For the first time in the country's history, the government in May 2014 introduced a well-known global practice of tracking fruit farms and even trees to standardise mango export to the EU. Exporters and government officials believe the practice paid dividends and mango exporters fetched higher prices this year, encouraging authorities to replicate the practice to other fruits and vegetables... Kinnow exporters are divided over the new system.... However, some exporters firmly believe that government policy to strictly monitor mango exports to the EU – one of the most lucrative markets for fruit exporting countries – was not only justified but also helped Pakistan from a blanket ban on its fruit and vegetable exports.... "We support government policies of registering kinnow farms as it will help growers and exporters to invest in quality products. There must be some reward for growers who work hard to save farms from different fruit diseases," another top kinnow exporter commented.

[tribune.com.pk; 8 October 2014]

Grapefruit season starts in Turkey

Export date of grapefruit is confirmed for 9.10.2014, one day earlier than last year. The grapefruit variety authorized for export is Starruby grown in Adana, Tarsus and Mersin regions which are in the south of Turkey. In the 2013-2014 season about 180 thousand tons were exported and it was 35% more than the previous season. This year should be a normal season with the expecting exports to Japan like last year. The main importer countries from January to June were Russian Federation, Romania, Holland, Ukraine and Poland with a remarkable increase in Dutch exports.

[Freshplaza.com; 7 October 2014]

Brazil: Portable detection for citrus greening

Since 2005, citrus greening has caused \$4.5 billion in economic damage in Florida, and has necessitated the eradication of 27 million trees in Brazil, accounting for approximately 5–15% of production costs. Orange farmers traditionally detect citrus greening by visually inspecting their tree leaves... Visual inspection accurately identifies the disease 60% in the best cases and 30% on average. Unfortunately, diseased trees typically do not exhibit visible symptoms for more than a year, during which time they can spread the bacteria to other trees in a grove... Jarbas Caiado de Castro Neto, an entrepreneur and professor at the Instituto de Física de São Carlos and his research team, spent one and a half years developing an inexpensive and portable way to detect citrus greening before the trees exhibit visible symptoms. The end product, which is about the size of a credit card scanning machine, contains a laser, a spectrometer, and a processor to analyse the results. It contains a battery that can power the equipment for a full day of leaf checking, and can report results in the field. Diseased and healthy orange tree leaves emit different fluorescence spectra... The spectrographic signature of citrus greening disease also appears almost immediately after a tree is infected, compared to the year or more it takes for visible symptoms to develop. When Castro and his team tested their portable spectroscopic system in August 2014, it detected citrus greening with greater than 95% accuracy. The fact that the device can identify diseased trees in the year before they exhibit visible symptoms is a huge advantage, Castro said, because it allows farmers to eradicate trees before they spread the disease to others. The researchers estimate that this early identification could save Brazilian orange farmers billions of dollars by 2020 if widely adopted today.

[Freshplaza.com; 7 October 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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