GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (2)

John Edmonds (23 January 2015)
Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Low quality and over supply on UK citrus market

The UK lemon market has not been easy during December and January, according to Rob Cullum from Pacific Produce. "Turkish exporters have been asking for higher prices for the last six weeks but the problem is the market won't pay and the volume keeps coming. This is probably because Russia has not been the golden star that they thought it would be. Some low quality arrivals did not help the market," explains Cullum…The lime market is not so rosy either. Cullum said it is a bit of yo-yo product at the best of times, but it is coming off the back of very high prices in November and December. "We are now in the position where the market has too much fruit, the problem is that most of this fruit was bought at high prices in Brazil when the market was short and demand was increasing in the run up to Christmas and everyone was chasing fruit." Mexico is still sending limes to the EU but the quality is not what it should be, it looks ok, but it has a very short shelf life which is causing problems on the market, according to Cullum. After a couple of good years, the lime situation seems to have returned to its normal state for January. Possibly the suppliers have been lured into a false sense of security by the good year, small sizes are not helping the situation either. As always with lime, predictions are very hard to make. "In contrast the grapefruit market is surprisingly alright. It is normally a bit of a mess at this time of the year," says Cullum. "But prices are around £1 up on this time last year, I'm not sure why exactly, maybe because last year was a disaster and senders are being cautious." The supply just now is from Turkey, Israel and with some from Cyprus. "We are currently working easypeelers from Morocco–the quality is excellent. The Afourer is a really good colour and right now the flavour is exactly the right balance. You know you have a good product when you cannot stop eating them," concludes Culum.
[Freshplaza.com; 23 January 2015]

Israel: Four new varieties of grapefruit

Four new types of citrus fruit have recently been developed in Israel. The new types are tasty, seedless and peel easily. These new types of citrus fruit have also been unveiled in Europe, where they were highly praised. The new citrus types are: Flamingo; a red grapefruit, which is a hybrid between the "Chandler" grapefruit, the Jaffa orange and a Clementine - which is itself a hybrid between a mandarin and a sweet orange. This kind of grapefruit ripens between the months of October to December. In contrast to the other types it retains its red color even when the temperatures drop. This fruit is sweet and seedless and thanks to its red pigmentation, it also has unique qualities which includes prevention of cancer. Hanna is a white grapefruit hybrid between "Tahiti" and "Chandler" types. This fruit also ripens between from October to December, is very sweet containing 12.6% sugar and is also seedless. Einat is a new pink grapefruit. This grapefruit ripens between October and January. The fruit contains 11.5% sugar and is seedless. Aliz is a grapefruit that peels easily and ripens between the months of November and February. It contains 16% sugar and is seedless. This fruit is very sweet and has the potential to dominate the global market.
[israeltoday.co.il; 23 January 2015]

US: China citrus proposal advances – slowly

A possible opening of the U.S. market to China citrus is still at least several months away. But if or when the green light comes, it could meet with little opposition from the California industry. Last August the U.S. Department of Agriculture proposed a rule to grant entry to Chinese mandarin oranges, pomelos, sweet oranges, satsuma mandarin and ponkan if various pest and disease safeguards are established…China's citrus season is comparable to California's, making a late-2015 arrival plausible if remaining obstacles are removed…The majority of China's fresh orange exports go to Russia and neighbors in Asia. China's fresh orange exports to North America — mainly Canada — range from about 100 to 300 metric tons per year. If Chinese orange exports to the U.S. total 300 metric tons, the USDA said that would equal about one-fourth of 1% of fresh orange imports from all sources in 2012-13
[thepacker.com; 20 January 2015]

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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