GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (15)

John Edmonds (22 May 2015) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Weather, exchange rates favor strong China-bound export deal for Aussie citrus

Australian citrus exporters are upbeat about their prospects for the Chinese market this year, following favourable weather conditions for fruit quality and a positive change in exchange rates. Citrus Australia's general manager of market development Andrew Harty told www.freshfruitportal.com the country's first oranges would arrive in mid-June, starting in small quantities to avoid clashing with domestic supply...“We will continue to ship through July and August. Then we will start shipping late Navels in September and October...Harty told the ABC the drop of the currency against the U.S. dollar was also helping. “For about every cent drop, there are about 250 [Australian] dollars per [metric] ton for growers. That's significant. Compared with returns three or four years ago, that would be doubled,” ...
[Freshfruitportal.com; 19 May 2015]

South African citrus set for US

Citrus growers in the Western Cape region of South Africa say their 2015 harvest is earlier than usual following excellent growing conditions. This, along with other factors in favour of the South Africans, will enable them to be more price-competitive this year... “The fruit dictates our season,” says Johan Mouton, chairman of the Western Cape Citrus Producers' Forum (WCCPF). “We are very pleased with the quality and colour and we are harvesting at the optimum stage.” Mouton says that factors such as the strength of the South African currency and the impact of lower oil pr are this year in the country's favour, and are further reason for confidence... “We do however keep a keen interest on the discussions in the US about the renewal of the Africa Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA). The renewal of AGOA is very important to us because the act has created new opportunities for us in the US market.”...The South Africans are keeping one eye on the tail-end of the Californian season and have always in the past waited, when possible, for the Californian fruit to clear before their own major arrivals land in Philadelphia...
[Fruitnet.com; 13 May 2015]

US: Strong start for Uruguayan easy peelers

After approximately a decade of negotiations between both countries to enable citrus exports from Uruguay to the USA, a trade agreement was signed in October 2013, allowing the export process to begin...For now, the main market for the Uruguayan Easy Peelers is Europe, with approximately a 60% of the fruit shipped to Holland, the United Kingdom and Russia in 2014, corresponding to 27.400 tons, while the USA registered 4.600 tons arrived with a 10% of participation. ...approximately 4.400 tons have already reached the markets of the USA, corresponding to almost the same volume than the whole previous season. Moreover, a significant drop in the exports to Europe (Holland, the UK and Russia) is observed...corresponding to a 40.5% decrease compared to last season. It is, of course, too early to establish a conclusion for the development of the season as it is beginning; nevertheless the trend for the USA markets is very favourable for 2015. Moreover, Uruguay is planning to increase its participation in other markets, as Far East countries.
[Freshplaza.com; 15 May 2015]

"Good start for grapefruit from South Africa and Zimbabwe"

The first few weeks of the grapefruit sales are over and importers can't complain. "Good prices with a strong demand," sums up Joep van Lierop of De Groot International. "The first Navels from South Africa are coming in and the first Valencias will be available from the end of June." Joep speaks about the expectations for the coming South African season. As far as the measures against Citrus Black Spot are concerned, they are in line with last year..."No shortages are expected in general this year, but the measures will cause a market in which the arrivals are irregular."...Joep believes more smaller grapefruit sizes will be available from South Africa this year, part of which is too small for export. "This means that less will be exported in total compared to last season and more will be used for processing."...
[Freshplaza.com; 20 May 2015]

Spain: 10% of oranges still unharvested and at rock-bottom prices

The president of the professional citrus association Palmanaranja, Antonio Carmona, said that 10% of the oranges remain unharvested, even though work in the warehouse is expected to continue until June, and that "prices this campaign have been disastrous." ...Palmanaranja laments that the start of the campaign overlaps with large volumes of fruit from southern hemisphere countries. Carmona notes that in December, two months into the campaign, there were still oranges from South Africa in the supermarket shelves. They request a new supply regulation, highly fragmented by large retailers, and stress the need to move beyond the traditional European market, affected by the Russian veto. Associated companies are already working in Korea, Canada, Brazil, China and the UAE. Furthermore, they also suggest the production of supporting crops, such as almonds or industrial tomatoes.
[Freshplaza.com; 19 May 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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