

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (16)

John Edmonds (29 May 2015)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Russia blocks Egyptian orange shipment after Medfly detection

Russian authorities have blocked part of a large Egyptian orange shipment being transported into the country due to the detection of Mediterranean fruit fly. The country's phytosanitary watchdog Rosselkhoznadzor said the case related to a consignment of 893 metric tons (MT) of oranges that had originated from the north African nation. Rosselkhoznadzor said the fruit that was being shipped into Russia via the Black Sea port of Novorossiysk was accompanied by a valid phytosanitary certificate. However, laboratory tests reportedly revealed that some of the fruit had Medfly larvae present, and as a result 120 tons of the oranges that were infected were denied entry.

[Freshfruitportal.com; 25 May 2015]

Indonesia's citrus imports under threat

Indonesia is on the verge of closing its doors to all citrus imports apart from lemons for the July to September period, according to reports circulating in the local trade. The Indonesian government is in the early stages of issuing fruit import permits under its quota system for the July-December semester, and these are not expected to be announced until mid to late June. Government authorities have not announced or issued written confirmation of any ban on citrus imports for the period. However, Indonesian fruit importers, who must submit applications for the products and volumes they plan to import for the period before securing permits, say they have received verbal indications from government authorities that no citrus imports (apart from lemons) will be admitted during the July to September period....

The government's reported move to suspend imports is driven by the Department of Agriculture and is apparently aimed at protecting local Indonesian citrus producers, according to the Assibssindo spokesperson. But he pointed out that Indonesia's citrus growers only produce tangerines with a bi-coloured green/orange skin. "Other types of citrus such as mandarins and grapefruit cannot be grown in Indonesia due to the tropical climate and high humidity," the spokesperson told Asiafruit...Southern Hemisphere citrus shippers such as Australia, South Africa and Argentina stand to be worst-affected by any suspension of imports during the July-September period as their seasons are in full flow then.

Australia is particularly exposed. Indonesia ranked as the number one export market by volume for Australian mandarins in 2014 with a value of A\$8.6m, which represented 20 per cent of total exports, according to analysis from Fresh Intelligence Consulting. The South East Asian country was also an important market for Australia's oranges, garnering A\$5.1m and representing around 4 per cent of total exports. Total Australian citrus exports to Indonesia reached almost 11,000 tonnes in 2014, with more than 6,000 tonnes entering the market in the July-September quarter...Argentina also shipped 7,506 tonnes of citrus to Indonesia in 2014, according to analysis from Fresh Intelligence Consulting. Volumes were almost overwhelmingly made up of mandarins, around 4,000 tonnes of which entered the market between July and September. South Africa also sent 5,264 tonnes of oranges to Indonesia last year, almost 3,000 tonnes of which arrived in the same quarter. But the Assibssindo spokesperson also told Asiafruit that Southern Hemisphere citrus shippers would not be the only ones affected..."It's really going to affect Indonesian hoteliers, restaurants and catering businesses and most of all fresh juice consumers and the government's income from import taxes," he said. "The worst is yet to come as it would open opportunities for smuggling."

[Fruitnet.com; 27 May 2015]

Could drinking OJ boost memory?

Drinking orange juice every day could help improve the brain power of elderly people, researchers claim. And it takes less than two months to show marked improvements in memory, speech and reaction times, according to a study. Scientists think the results are down to chemicals called flavonoids - a natural substance which occurs in high levels in oranges. Research has suggested that flavonoids may improve memory through the activation of signalling pathways in the hippocampus, a part of the brain that is associated with learning and storing information. A research team from Reading University asked 37 healthy volunteers to drink 500ml - nearly a pint - of orange juice every day for eight weeks. The participants - 24 women and 13 men aged 60 to 81 - saw significant improvements in their brain function, the researchers found. Their memory, reaction time and verbal fluency was measured at the beginning and end of the experiment, and each participant given an overall score known as 'global cognitive function'. Their scores improved 8 per cent - a remarkable improvement in less than two months. The researchers said they do not necessarily recommend that people drink an entire pint of orange juice every day. But they suggested that constituents of orange juice could play an important role in providing brain-boosting nutrients.

[dailymail.co.uk; 15 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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