

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (23)

John Edmonds (17 July 2015)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

South African Soft citrus estimate peels off

South Africa's Soft Citrus Focus Group recently reduced its season forecast by 400,000 cartons, taking the expected total to 9.6 million cartons for the campaign. In a summary released by the Citrus Growers Association of Southern Africa (CGA) in an industry newsletter, CEO Justin Chadwick said clementine forecasts were now "well off" the originally estimated three million cartons, down some 500,000 cartons. Additionally, finalized satsuma shipments fell 100,000 cartons short of the 1.8 million cartons initially estimated. In contrast, the forecasts for the category "other mandarins" are up 200,000 cartons at 5.4 million cartons...

[Freshfruitportal.com; 13 July 2015]

Mexico: Avocado and lemon production reactivated in Michoacan

In 2014, Michoacan's lemon and avocado production reached record figures, leaving behind the losses caused by extortion payments to criminal groups, like La Familia Michoacana and the Knights Templar, which for years took a toll on these agricultural sectors. The Agrifood and Fisheries Information Service (SIAP) reported that, in the case of lemons, production reached 642,845 tonnes, 23.8 percent more than in 2013 and far ahead of the 386,064 tonnes registered 10 years ago. Lemon production is the backbone of the economy in the region of Tierra Caliente, specifically in the town of Apatzingan... Michoacan supplies more than half of the avocados and lemons consumed nationwide.

[Freshplaza.com; 15 July 2015]

US (FL): Citrus forecast report contains minimal changes

On Friday, July 10, the USDA released its Florida citrus forecast report. The 2014-2015 all orange forecast is raised to 96.7 million boxes. This is made up of 47.4 million boxes of non-Valencia oranges (early, midseason, Navel and Temple varieties) and 49.3 million boxes of Valencia oranges... All Florida grapefruit production forecast remains unchanged at 12.95 million boxes. Of the total grapefruit forecast, 3.25 million boxes are white and 9.7 million boxes include coloured varieties. The Florida all tangerine forecast remains at 2.3 million boxes...

[Freshplaza.com; 13 July 2015]

\$50 million to assist Texas citrus industry

Congressman Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo, last Friday, helped secure \$50 million within the Fiscal Year 2016 Agricultural Appropriations bill to save the citrus industry in Texas. Cuellar, whose district includes a portion of the Rio Grande Valley — the top citrus-producing area in Texas, understands the importance of the \$11.2 billion citrus industry in the United States and how it has been affected by huanglongbing... "These \$50 million in federal funds are the highest funding level for citrus pest efforts in an appropriations bill and allow us a fighting chance to save the citrus industry in Texas, as well as the livelihoods of citrus growers all across the Rio Grande Valley,"

[progresstimes.net; 13 July 2015]

Peel research bolsters oranges' thick skin

Several experiments have revealed that pre-harvest factors play an important role in reducing the incidence of creasing (albedo breakdown) in sweet oranges (*Citrus sinensis*)... Curtin University PhD candidate Zahoor Hussain, together with Horticulture Professor Zora Singh conducted experiments to determine the role that spraying polyamines onto the fruit had in affecting creasing and the best treatment for managing this disorder. Albedo breakdown is a physiological disorder of the peel in citrus fruits, causing the pith to spilt and crack... Consumers are less likely to buy damaged fruit, resulting in the sweet oranges with albedo breakdown receiving a lower quality grade... The researchers found that a variety of factors made sweet oranges more susceptible to creasing including their genotype, climate conditions, rootstock, crop load, rind thickness, irrigation and mineral nutrition... They examined the effect of the polyamine Putrescine (PUT) on Washington Navel and Late Lane sweet oranges, over a two-year period from 2010-2012 on a commercial orchard at Gingin... "The research found that creasing may be associated with polyamine biosynthesis within the fruit, and if we sprayed PUT onto the fruit we found it made the rind of the fruit... stronger and improved the quality of the fruit," Prof Singh says... However, he says they need to conduct further testing with polyamines before they can fully comprehend how to prevent creasing in sweet oranges in order to develop an effective management strategy.

[Freshplaza.com; 13 July 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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