

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (26)

John Edmonds (6 August 2015)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

US: Chilean lemon season in full swing

"We are in the middle of the Chilean lemon season and supplies are very good," says Eric Gingrich with Earth Source Trading. "The fruit came early, but the timing was perfect as the California lemon season wrapped up early this year."... "Good weather at the time of harvest allowed Chile to move a lot of volume from the beginning... Consumers should be able to buy them until mid-October..."

[www.earthsourcetrading.com; 5 Aug 2015]

US: Huge citrus losses tied to offshore pickets

This spring and early summer's floating picket lines outside the ports of Long Beach, Los Angeles, and Oakland, Calif... inflicted severe damage on Central California's citrus... China was not the only destination for the oranges, walnuts, and cotton in those floating container ships, but it was the main one. A substantial amount of the citrus was destined for retail sales to Chinese consumers in celebration of their New Year...

[westernfarmpress.com; 4 august 2015]

Citrus greening spurs carrier flies into action

A recent study from the University of Florida (UF) might help explain the speed at which citrus greening has spread around the globe, after it was found the bacterium alters the behaviour of the disease vector... Five UF researchers have discovered Asian citrus psyllids (ACP) fly earlier in their life cycles, more frequently and farther when they are infected with the citrus greening bacterium, also known as Huanglongbing (HLB)... Dr. Kirsten Pelz-Stelinski of the UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences' (IFAS) Citrus Research and Education Centre says male adult psyllids are more attracted to females when they are carrying the HLB bacterium... "To our knowledge, this is the first description of direct changes to insect behaviour caused by a bacterial pathogen in an insect-plant-pathogen system," says Pelz-Stelinski... HLB is currently present in most of South Asia, stretching to Iran, and also a swathe of land along the east coast of the African continent. The disease hit the world's leading citrus-growing region Sao Paulo in 2004, and was shortly followed by Florida in late 2005. Citrus greening can also be found in Mexico, some southern U.S. states and a few detections have been made in recent years in California... On the issue of making female psyllids becoming more 'attractive' after HLB infection, Pelz Stelinski clarifies that females are more attracted to plant odours than to males and prefer uninfected new vegetation over infested vegetation because it is more nutritional. In addition, females are repelled by high densities of other psyllid females...

[Freshfruitportal.com 6 August]

Turkey: Lemons too expensive for consumers

In green grocers and at markets the price of the inflation champion, the lemon, is deterring consumers. Therefore, the lemon, which in Turkey has always been considered an indispensable part of the dinner table, has been dropped... Batman greengrocer, Halil Kardas, considers the price hike of lemons to be caused by the increase in lemon exports which has meant less produce on the domestic markets.

[Freshplaza.com; 31 July 2015]

South African Citrus Fair in Japan

Taking advantage of South Africa's counter seasonal supplies of fruit, the South African Embassy in Japan capitalised on the citrus fruit which is the only fresh produce in the market to showcase the best quality, interact with various stakeholders in lobbying for expansion of the market. The Embassy aims to contribute to South Africa's economic growth by expanding the market by at least 1% annually until 2020, as Japan will be hosting the 2019 Rugby World Cup and the 2020 Olympic Games. With the same objective of maintaining and creating agricultural jobs, Ambassador Pheko took time out to launch the 2015 South African citrus season through the 'South Africa Citrus Fair' held in partnership with the DAIEI Retail Group... While the embassy's objective is on expansion of South African agri-jobs, DAIEI's shortterm objective was to sell 5000 grapefruit. The event is reported to be one of the successes and received broad attention through the local television...

[www.thediplomaticsociety.co.za; 2 July 2015]

South Africa: San Miguel beefs up RSA operation

South Africa plays crucial role in the company's programmes to Asia and the Middle East Citrus specialist San Miguel has acquired four new farms in the Sundays River Valley in South Africa's Eastern Cape. The company said that of the 425ha, 296ha are already planted and the remaining are earmarked for future production. The deal also includes the purchase of a pack house with a capacity of 20,000 tonnes and water rights for a total of 567ha of land. "This acquisition will enable us to selectively manage varieties from strategic producers, as well as pre-sort lemons to obtain a cleaner product destined for processing," the company said... Due to its proximity to Asian and Middle Eastern markets, South Africa forms a key plank of San Miguel's strategy of becoming the

leading supplier of Southern Hemisphere citrus and the company believes that beefing up its production in the country will serve as a springboard into new markets...
[Fruitnet.com; 27 July 2015]

Italian citrus production affected by drought, disease

Italy's citrus production for the 2014-2015 season is expected to take a hit due to a lack of water and the Citrus Tristeza Virus (CTV).

Italian orange production for the 2014-2015 season is expected to be 24 percent lighter than production from the previous season, according to a report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service. In addition to a lack of rain, production has been hurt by disease, with about 32,000 hectares of orange groves in Catania and Siracusa affected by CTV.

Similarly, tangerine production for the 2014-2015 season is expected to drop by 15 percent from the previous season's total. Clementine production and mandarin production are also expected to be lighter this season, with drops of 19 percent and 9 percent, respectively, from the previous season's production. Lemon production, on the other hand, is expected to stay relatively stable, with only a two percent increase in 2014-2015 over the previous season's haul.

Source: USDA

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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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