

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (27)

John Edmonds (13 August 2015)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Early mandarin production in Valencia drops

The production of early varieties of mandarins in the Valencian Community in Spain in 2015/16 might drop of 40% compared to the previous year. This worrisome news comes from the results of the analysis of the evolution and development of this citrus made by specialists of the local growers' association (AVA-ASAJA). The causes for this decrease are mainly due to the excessive and persistent temperatures – a lot higher than average – registered since late-spring and all summer. In particular, the hot weather reported in mid-May was disastrous. On 21 May the temperature made fruits fall off trees. As for mandarins of the late varieties, AVA-ASAJA reports that this production decrease will not be high, but might reach 20-25% less against last season. Overall, with reference to the whole citrus sector, the analysis tells that the reduction of the harvest should be around 20%. This is, however, a first assessment, that can thus be modified in the next months...

[greenmed.eu; 12 Aug 2015]

Spain set for smaller lemon crop

Ailimpo said the fall is due to adverse weather conditions during blossoming and fruit set that resulted in less fruits per tree. Planted area remains unchanged from 2014/15. Volumes of Fino lemons are projected to fall by 17 per cent...For Verna lemons the shortfall is likely to be more severe. Initial estimates suggest production could fall by as much as 38 per cent, although Ailimpo said this estimate would be revised in January once the effects of autumn and winter rainfall have been evaluated. In spite of the fall on last year's total, Ailimpo noted that production would be in line with the average for the past seven years. "The Southern Hemisphere season is due to end somewhat later this year so ideally we'd like harvesting to start at the end of September or beginning of October which would allow the market time to clear," Ailimpo said.

[Fruitnet.com; 5 August 2015]

U.S. tightens import requirements on Chilean fruit imports

A spate of Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) detections in Chile has led U.S. authorities to toughen their stance against imports from the South American country, with rules ordering the cold treatment of host commodities from quarantine areas. The amendments announced by the U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on July 31 build on a pre-clearance program that was already in place for clementines, grapes, lemons, mandarins, pomegranates, and tangerines grown in these zones...Growers producing fruit outside the quarantine zones will need to have a SAG-issued phytosanitary certificate with an additional declaration saying the crop was grown in a Medfly-free area. The U.S. is not the only country that has upped the ante on Chile in response to its detections. In April, China designated the entire Coquimbo region as a quarantine zone, with SAG pushing for the zone to be reduced to radii of 27.2km from detection areas...

[Freshfruitportal.com 4 August]

Florida: Large-scale GM citrus field trials could start in spring

Whether it be in the U.S., Brazil or China, citrus greening disease has caused billions of dollars in damages to growers and continues to threaten farms in new regions, most notably California...The most effective potential tool so far has been genetic modification, with a spinach gene implanted in oranges, grapefruit and lemons to make them citrus greening-resistant..."If we could find a solution other than biotechnology that would solve this problem tomorrow, we would be at the forefront of working on it," says Southern Gardens Citrus president Ricke Kress, adding the group was indeed studying disease control and mitigation on many levels. "But if biotechnology is the answer, then the industry should have that alternative to consider..." "Even though we've had trials in the ground since 2009, we're now just getting to the point where we're seeing fruit being grown by these trees. From a quality and scientific perspective it compares very well," he says...He says the research team is also investigating whether there is a need for genetically modified rootstocks, but for now the focus is on having trees ready to put in the ground in the spring of 2016...

[Freshfruitportal.com; 10 August 2015]

Attractive market for Argentine lemons

Argentine lemons are enjoying strong prices across all export markets in spite of the challenging start to the 2015 campaign. An excessively hot summer followed by a period of heavy rainfall caused delays to harvesting and has resulted in only a partial recovery to production following the 2013 freeze. "Production is 30 per cent up on last year but still below pre-freeze levels," All Lemon president Romain Corneille told Fruitnet. "Nevertheless, we have more fruit available and this will enable us to reach more markets. Companies are doing all they can to meet their customers' requirements." Currently, prices on the European market are at similar levels to last year, while strong demand in the Middle East and Asia is also keeping the market fluid, Corneille said. "Prices in Russia are also very attractive but we have to factor in the devaluation of the rouble, which has fallen by around 46 per cent against the dollar in recent months,"

[Fruitnet.com; 12 August 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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