

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (28)

John Edmonds (20 August 2015)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Low storage levels South African citrus

The market for South African citrus has been, in general, successful so far this season. Although South African exporters are finding more and more markets, the volume of oranges going to Europe is slightly higher than it was last year, "The difference this season was that the fruit arrived on an empty market, in which no stock space was created for the Valencia oranges," says Eddy Kreukniet from Exsa Europe. "The Navels, Navel Late and Autumn Gold season is over in three weeks. I expect these varieties to end the season at the current price. The quality of the easy-peeler oranges is very good...In the upcoming weeks more fruit is going to come in because the Valencia variety will be in production in all the regions at this time. Normally, large volumes arrive shortly before the duty-deadline on October 15th, but I expect supply to be more spread out this year."

The lemon market has been stable this season with high prices..."On the grapefruit market there have been huge shortages and great prices since the beginning of the season. There will also not be enough fruit to bridge the season in the northern hemisphere. South African exporters cannot help but be pleased. A grapefruit price of 13/14 Euro is something everyone is okay with in the sector. Tangerine prices are also much better than the 'dramatic' season last year, "The market is filled with Clementines, Clemanova's and Nova's, and now Nadorcott and Mineola tangelos are coming in, plus some luxury varieties like Or and Mor."

"There are not very many alternatives to the citrus market at the moment. Brazil and Uruguay have limited volume available and Argentina is also sending hardly any citrus this way, except for lemons. The South Africans have consistently exported 35% of the citrus to Europe each year, but they also export to many other places as well...and it is always about having the right mix of customers."

[Freshplaza.com; 19 August]

US (CA): 15,000 citrus acres bulldozed this year

The drought continues to hurt the Central Valley citrus industry as more groves are being bulldozed...The California Citrus Mutual estimates up to 15,000 acres will be bulldozed this year. Across the Valley, growers are ripping out trees and planting new ones -- hoping to save water. Joel Nelsen, president of California Citrus Mutual, explains new trees require less water. The technique allows for more water for older trees. But some growers are done. More and more "for sale" signs are popping up in front of groves. Nelsen says this is the first time they're seeing that happen. Nelsen says consumers again can expect smaller-than-normal fruit because of the drought. He's hoping more water will be given to growers in the future to improve citrus growth. There is the potential for more rain this winter with a possible El Nino, but that rainfall likely won't come soon enough to help this year's crop.

[abc7news.com; 19 August 2015]

U.S. researchers develop device to count dropped citrus

Researchers at the University of Florida (UF) have invented a way to quickly and accurately count the amount of citrus fruit dropped early so growers can see where the citrus greening disease (HLB) is most affecting groves. The device is suitable for various conditions in citrus groves, including addressing problems of variable lighting, giving accurate estimates of dropped fruit counts and providing exact locations of trees with greater fruit drop. "This machine could have significant economic value to citrus growers," UF biological engineering professor Wonsuk 'Daniel' Lee said...The UF researchers created an outdoor imaging system with two cameras to obtain accurate color images. They were equipped with microprocessors and had special "charge-coupled device" sensors, which turn light into electrons for greater resolution...The team's research has been accepted for publication by the Transactions of the ASABE (American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers) journal...They plan to make their current machine vision system a real-time system that can be used easily in a commercial citrus grove.

[Freshfruitportal.com; 18 August 2015]

Veracruz consolidates lime exports to South Korea

According to the Secretariat of Agricultural Development, Rural and Fisheries (Sedarpa), Pesian lime producers from Veracruz have exported more than 273 tons of this citrus to South Korea since the opening of the trade with this country less than a year...The Asian country represents a potential market for Mexican agricultural products, as it has over 50 million potential consumers...Mexico has sent 301 tons of seedless limes, which are well received in the eastern markets, to South Korea.

[Freshplaza.com; 18 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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