GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (29)

John Edmonds (27 August 2015)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Orange prices up and new EU season supply down

EU orange prices have increased 13 per cent year on year due to lower domestic production expected for 2015. A report from commodity analysts Mintel found that the 2015 EU orange harvest, starting in November, is forecast to be down 14 per cent from last season, falling to 5.7 million tonnes. A Mintel spokesperson said: "This is mainly due to poor fruit setting caused by a lack of rainfall earlier in the season. Record breaking hot temperatures across Europe during June and July, including in Valencia, Spain's main orange-producing region, have reduced fruit yield. "Due to the lower production expected for fresh fruit, the fruit available for processing is expected to fall by 14 per cent."

[Freshfruitportal.com; 24 August 2015]

Lemons and grapefruits selling very well

Sales of South African citrus is good across the board. The price of oranges lies between 11 and 14 Euro, tangerines are between 14 and 18 Euro and limes are 7.50 Euro. Traders are calling grapefruit gold; the price for red grapefruit is 16.50 Euro and white is 13.50 to 14 Euro. The same is being said about lemons, with a stable price of around 30 Euro. South Africa has been more selective when sending citrus - destinations like the Middle East, China and Malaysia do not check for Black Spot, but the low volumes coming from Uruguay and Argentina are also making it possible for South Africa to lead the supplies of oranges to the European market…

[Freshplaza.com; 21 August]

Excellent quality citrus from South Africa

"Shipments of clementines and navels from South Africa to the US market have been strong this summer due to high demand from retailers, wholesalers and terminal markets," says Mark Hanks with DNE World Fruit…"The country ships a uniform standard of taste and grade throughout the season," said Hanks. "The growers and logistics providers do an excellent job of organizing the charter vessels and clearing the product before shipment." This results in consistent shipments coming into the US…"Although importing from South Africa has its challenges, many US retailers request South African citrus for its quality," says Tom Cowan with DNE World. Currently, the 'Western Cape' area of the country is the only region that has been certified 'free from pests' and is allowed to ship to the US. "However, the South African Department of Agriculture is working with USDA officials to certify other areas in the Northern and East Cape to expand exports to the US."…"The quality of this year's navels and clementines has been very good with high brix levels and larger sizes than last season," mentioned Cowan…The country complements the US season well. As soon as Florida, Texas and California finish up their seasons in spring, imports from South Africa start and continue until the start-up of the California navel and clementine season around October/November…

[Freshplaza.com; 20 August]

South African citrus industry lifted by EU audit

South Africa's citrus industry has been given a boost by a European Union (EU) audit praising the country's citrus black spot (CBS) risk management system. The audit was carried out between Feb. 24 and March 6 by the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO), an independent EU Commission service tasked with food safety and plant health… "The FVO team found that the NPPO [National Plant Protection Office] has reviewed and strengthened significantly its export procedures and system of official checks to take account of the outcome of the 2014 export season and the investigations carried out following findings of non-compliance and notifications of interception from the EU," the report said. "These are fully in line with the revised EU requirements for the import of such fruit from South Africa."

[Freshfruitportal.com; 25 August 2015]

Egypt: 50,000 acres of fruit hit by water shortage

In an area 25 kilometres from the Suez Governorate, located in Eyes of Moses, a major crisis is underway due to water cut offs, which have caused the destruction of some 50 thousand acres of fruit crops. The area contains more than 5 thousand farms devoted to the cultivation of different types of fruits and vegetables, such as pomegranates, lemons, mandarins, oranges, grapes, mangoes and others…the reason for the disaster is that the Sheikh Zayed canal line, which was supplying the area with water for agriculture, has been broken during excavation works, so water has been cut off from the region for more than 45 days. The problem is that the water present in the region is unsuitable for agriculture because of its high degree of salinity.

[Freshplaza.com; 17 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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