GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (41)

John Edmonds (20 November 2015) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Florida citrus tax break to expand acreage

A new bill, titled the Emergency Citrus Disease Response Act (HR 3957), was recently introduced by U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan, R-Sarasota, to expand the ability of growers immediately to write off the cost of planting new citrus groves…Michael Sparks, CEO of Florida Citrus Mutual in Lakeland, the growers' trade group that has lobbied for the tax change, has called the Buchanan bill its top federal legislative priority. "By some estimates our industry needs to put more than 20 million trees in the ground over the next 10 years to support existing infrastructure and get our production back to where it was before (greening)," Sparks said…

[theledger.com; 16 November 2015]

Relief for OJ market after Florida orange forecast

The US OJ market has received a much needed price boost on the back of a cloudy outlook for Florida's orange crop. Prices for frozen concentrated orange juice futures touched $1.60 per pound this week, the highest price since summer 2014. Florida's crop was reported to be the smallest in more than 50 years, shrinking 14 percent compared to last year, according to recent USDA estimates. Citrus greening is leaving Florida orange producers in dire straits, and the state could need as many as 20 million new trees to return to previous production levels. Until Florida is able to successfully combat the disease, which causes trees to prematurely drop fruit, consumers will either have to deal with higher prices, find a new Vitamin C source, or look to new suppliers, like Brazil, the world's top OJ producer. For traders, FCOJ continues to be an exhilarating market to follow, with prices moving up by 55 percent during the last six weeks.

[Freshplaza. 16 November 2015]

Chile diversifies citrus markets

A sharp increase in production of late season mandarins and lemons helped Chilean citrus exports set a new record in 2015. Total shipments reached 204,000 tonnes, a 30 per cent rise on the previous season.
Figures from the Chilean Citrus Committee showed that easy peelers were the leading item, making up 37 per cent of the total export volume. Oranges and lemons accounted for 33 per cent and 30 per cent respectively. The biggest rise in exports came in late mandarin varieties (+57 per cent) and lemons (+43 per cent). Orange and clementine shipments also increased by 18 per cent and 11 per cent respectively. "We've had an incredible season in North America," said committee president Juan Enrique Ortúzar, "In spite of strong competition from citrus from South Africa, Australia, Uruguay and Peru, volumes registered double-digit growth and good market conditions for all varieties." Ortúzar noted that the industry is currently trialling a number of new mandarin varieties developed in the US, Spain, Australia and South Africa with a view to boosting its export portfolio in the coming years. Mandarins and clementines are expected to lead Chile's export charge as they are undergoing the biggest expansion in planted area…The US is the leading market for Chilean citrus, absorbing virtually all of its clementine and mandarin output as well as well as 89 per cent of Navels and 55 per cent of lemons. However, the past season has seen a rise in shipments to Europe, particularly in lemons as shippers have sought to capitalise in the fall in Argentine production

[Fruitnet.com; 16 November 2015]

Latest HLB outbreak renews Spanish fears

The discovery of a suspected case of HLB in southern Portugal has put Spain's citrus industry in a state of high alert… Last week's outbreak – which has yet to be officially confirmed – prompted Portugal's agriculture ministry to order the immediate uprooting of the affected 1.5ha farm in the locality of Alcantarilha in the Algarve, in accordance with the emergency protocols established to deal with the disease…

[Fruitnet.com; 16 November 2015]

Moroccan citrus output rises

Morocco's citrus harvest is expected to reach 2m tonnes this season, representing a 6.7 per cent increase in last season's total according to a report in L'Economiste…Exports are expected to reach 500,000-520,000 tonnes across all varieties, with the bulk of shipments destined for the European and North American markets. Ahmed Darrab, secretary general of citrus grower association ASPAM, said soft citrus will make up around three-quarters of the country's export volume. Morocco increased its market share in Europe last season in spite of the fall in production. Russia, which used to absorb 60 per cent of exports, has seen its share reduced to 40 per cent.

[Fruitnet.com; 11 November 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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