

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (43)

John Edmonds (7 December 2015)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

USDA Releases US-1516 Citrus Rootstock

The Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture releases to nurserymen and growers the US-1516 citrus rootstock. This rootstock selection originated from a 1975 cross of African Pummelo (*Citrus grandis*) x Flying Dragon Trifoliolate Orange (*Poncirus trifoliata*) made at the USDA Date and Citrus Station at Indio, California...The major positive attributes of this new rootstock are induction of superior tree health, superior fruit productivity, and good fruit quality on sweet orange trees grown on the Florida ridge and infected with *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (Las), the causal agent of huanglongbing (HLB). This rootstock is being released for commercial use in Florida because of the urgent need for new citrus rootstocks that have improved tolerance to HLB. Field testing of the US-1516 rootstock has been primarily at one location and with 'Valencia' sweet orange scion...Of the 357 trees originally planted in the trial, 52 trees were removed because of very poor health (primarily symptoms of HLB). All of the 305 trees that remained in the trial in July 2015 from the original planting tested positive by PCR for *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (Las), and 304 trees showed visible leaf symptoms of HLB. Compared to other rootstocks in the trial, US-1516 rootstock had the lowest number of trees removed (zero) because of poor health, and the best average tree health rating...
[southeastagnet.com; 2 December 2015]

Typhoons and greening disease hit China citrus crop

China is one of the biggest citrus growers in the world. The country produces around 16 million tons of citrus fruit each year. The last two seasons the citrus industry has been hit hard. Typhoons have battered the South coast repeatedly and greening disease took almost 10% of total production away in 2014. "The 2015 season has not been particularly good for us. Plantations in Southern China have been damaged by typhoons over summer. Greening disease has done a lot of damage, especially in Jiangxi Province," says Cherrie Yang of Xiamen Rayen, Zhangzhou County at the East coast of China. "We supply pomelo, oranges and mandarins to Chinese supermarkets. Wholesale prices are 20% lower than in last season...The Upper and Middle Yangtze River region produces oranges that are famous for their use in the processing and juice industry. This is also Asia's largest orange production base. Navel oranges are grown in Hunan Province and in the South of Jiangxi Province. Zhejiang, Fujian and Guangdong Province produce fresh and canned mandarins. Canned mandarins are for the greater part exported. Chinese consumers prefer fresh fruit and most fresh citrus is sold on the domestic market. In addition, China exports an estimated half a million ton of fresh citrus a year. These are mostly easy peelers destined for Southeast Asia, Russia and the Middle East. The two most widespread mandarin varieties are the Satsuma with 60% of total production and the Penkan/Lugan, accounting for 30% of total production. Popular orange varieties are the Jin (33%), Navel (20%), Red River, Bingtang (20%) and Valencia. Citrus harvest season runs from September until the beginning of March. China is becoming a big importer of citrus. Main export countries that supply the Chinese market are South Africa, Australia, Chile, Egypt and Israel...

[Freshplaza.com; 3 December 2015]

Argentina: Tucuman closes 2015 with higher lemon exports

In terms of exports, Tucuman will end 2015 in a positive way, especially in the lemon sector, as exports increased by 26%...Regarding citrus, the Minister of Productive Development said, "exports of fresh lemons increased by 23% in terms of volume, reaching 136,000 tons against the 110,000 tons obtained in 2014. However, prices were lower so the income did not grow much." Brazil and the United States were the main destinations for exports from Tucuman. In 2014, Brazil was the strongest destination, something that changed this year, as the US had a stronger market opening. Fernandez said that this was due to "the significant increase in derivatives, such as lemon oil, juice, and lemon skin, caused by the higher harvest volume. It is a sector that had a very good placement."...There are a lot of expectations for 2016 in the province of Tucuman, as the Minister of Productive Development estimated the volume of exports would increase. The challenge now is to work to open new markets. In this regard, a delegation from the Chinese Government will visit the Northern Province today and tomorrow.

[El Intransigente via Freshplaza.com; 3 December 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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