

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (2016_11)

John Edmonds (24 March 2016)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

China destroys unlawful Spanish citrus cargo

The destruction of an illegal citrus shipment from Spain by the Chinese plant health authorities is threatening to sour Spain's burgeoning fruit trade with China before it gets off the ground. Spanish diplomats in Beijing confirmed on Thursday that a 20-tonne consignment of lemons and oranges destroyed by the Chinese authorities this week did not comply with export regulations. The shipment is believed to have come from Alicante. Speaking to Antena 3, the exporter responsible admitted they did not possess the necessary paperwork but claimed their customer in China "insisted we ship it anyway". The consignment was buried on quicklime in order to prevent the risk of infestation.

[Fruitnet.com; 18 March 2016]

Pink lemon arrive in Shanghai market

Recently, the first batch of pink lemons were imported...from a California based giant company Limoneira. Upon their landing in Shanghai fruit and vegetable markets, they were sold at a high price of 880 Yuan (120 Euro) per box to high-end supermarkets, e-commerce retailers and fruit chain stores...Compared with regular a lemon, it has a contrasting striped skin and its acidity will be slightly lower. Currently its ripe season is between March and July each month. Due to its limited production volume, it can only be imported by LCL mode (less than container load). Currently Pink Lemon concentrate production season takes place each year from March to July, total production is still small...

[Freshplaza.com; 23 March 2016]

Mexico: New irradiation plant for citrus

According to Jose Calzada Roviroso, head of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (Sagarpa), the agency would promote a project for the construction of an irradiation plant for citrus for export...this plant would help increase the exports...particularly to the United States. Calzada Roviroso said Mexico's citrus production continued to have a prominent place worldwide, as the country was one of the top five biggest producers in the world...Citrus production in Mexico (including lemon, orange, lime, and grapefruit production, among others) amounts to nearly eight million tons. According to the Department of Agricultural food and Fisheries Information (SIAP), lemon production totals 2.1 million tons; orange production, 4.5 million tons, and mandarin production, 194,000 tons.

[notimex.com 22 March 2016]

\$2m boost for California's citrus psyllid trapping

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has given California \$2 million for use in the state's battle against the Asian citrus psyllid. This is on top of the estimated \$25 million that the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Program with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) receives each year for disease prevention programs. Alyssa Houtby, communications director with California Citrus Mutual (CCM) said...Of the \$25 funding about \$15 million comes from a mandatory nine-cent per carton assessment of citrus growers...An additional \$10 million is sent to the program from the USDA. Currently no state funding is spent on the program. The goal is to keep psyllid traps in commercial groves and on residential citrus year-round with regular inspections of the traps...CCM is currently working...on legislation to increase the mandatory assessment to 12 cents. Included in the bill is a request for an additional \$5 million from the state General Fund for the state's citrus program...

[westernfarmpress.com; 21 March 2016]

First Moroccan Midnight Oranges at Anaco Greeve

Anaco Greeve has received the first Moroccan pressing oranges of the Midnight variety under the brand ATLAS...Midnight has been grown in South Africa for a long time and is new to the Moroccan citrus production. "Both we and our supplier believe that the Midnight is one of the best pressing oranges, with one of its characteristics being a dark orange colour. This is why we started growing the Midnight in the Beni Mellal area, close to the Atlas. This is an especially good area for later oranges." "This Midnight can bridge the period between the Salustianas and the Maroc Lates from Beni Mellal, as compared to Agadir Beni Mellal is always slightly later," according to Jan van der Voort of Anaco Greeve...The volumes aren't that large yet but the production will increase each year. "The current market for pressing oranges is reasonably at 9.5 to 10.5. We expect to be able to make more with this new variety," explains Jan...There is less Moroccan citrus available this season...The expectation is a harvest of 10 to 20% less... the domestic demand is very good. Ramadan also almost falls within the season, which stimulated the local market even more."

[Freshplaza.com; 21 March 2016]

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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