

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (2016_9)

John Edmonds (11 March 2016)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

South African citrus on track

There has been a lot in the news about how the drought is severely affecting the fruit production in South Africa and while the situation is very serious in most fruit producing regions it is not the case for Sundays River citrus grower Hannes De Waal from SRCC. "We will start shipping lemons to Europe in week 20 and oranges from week 18. It looks like it will be an early season for us, in this specific area we are not really affected by the drought, Sundays River Valley is looking at a season similar to last year. We have a good crop set and are happy with the fruit, the day temperatures are a bit high which may cause a bit of sunburn which may bring the estimates down, but at the moment we don't think that will happen," says Hannes. It is always very hot in citrus growing regions so he is not too worried at the moment they also have plenty of water for irrigation...Hannes was also very pleased after his visit to Fruit Logistica, he said it was very positive and they are definitely going to a stable EU market this season. He has had more Europeans visiting or planning visits to SRCC and its producers this year than ever before. Spanish volumes were also down this year, which according to some Spanish producers was good as the demand was not there. Lemons are hot commodity everywhere just now, and South Africans are planting more lemons to cater to the demand, "Our region is arguably the best in the world for growing lemons, the yields are very good and this is the first thing growers have to think about," said Hannes...At the moment it is very positive, but judging when the growth will surpass the market potential is very difficult to do. We are talking to big lemon growers throughout the world because nobody wants to overdo the planting and collapse the market." Sundays River Citrus Company are expanding the capacity of their juice factory by 50% this year and will double it again in the next five to increase the processing side of the business. On the subject of CBS Hannes said, "There was life before CBS and there is life after it... CBS has forced us to look at these other markets and that has been very positive for us," concludes Hannes.

[Freshplaza.com; 4 March 2016]

Argentina: Tucuman to negotiate export of lemons once again to the US

The national government will take advantage of the visit to Argentina that the President of the United States, Barack Obama, will conduct on March 23 and 24 to advance negotiations for the reopening of the US market to Argentine lemon, in particular that from Tucuman, the main producing province. "Argentina is the largest producer of lemon in the world and the province of Tucuman is the biggest producer in the country... Tucuman's lemon exports to the US were suspended between 2000 and 2001 by a court decision. The US based the measure to protect plant health on the suspicion that the fruit could be a transmitter of a bacterium...Nationally, this product represents 600 million dollars in income from abroad. Argentina was able to export its lemons to the US up until 2000...

[Freshplaza.com; 7 March 2016]

China: import oranges compete with domestic crop

Imported oranges have started to arrive in bigger volumes on the Chinese market. American import oranges are the earliest in the season, followed by Egyptian and Spanish oranges...Last season, quite large volumes of Egypt oranges were sold on the basis of consignment. This season, however, encouraged by last year's sales numbers, most exporters choose fixed prices to cooperate. This is increasing the risks for those who are trading. The quality of American oranges is better than in 2015. Last year, due to prolonged strikes at export ports in the US, a substantial part of the fruit was delayed which deteriorated the quality...This week, the price of American oranges is around 220RMB per box for its most popular 88 size...Prices for Spanish oranges hover around 180-200 RMB and prices for Egypt oranges are around 80-90 RMB. "This season, Chinese domestic oranges are of particularly good quality..." comments a wholesaler at the Huizhan market of Shanghai... "Although Chinese domestic orange is coming to the end of the season, compared with oranges from other countries, it still has better taste...Most domestic oranges have 13+ brix. Import oranges from other countries are still in early season, and their brix hovers between 11 and 12.

[Freshplaza.com; 8 March 2016]

US recruits canines help to combat HLB

According to a report in Bloomberg, the federal government has trained ten dogs to detect the deadly disease at its early stages, giving growers more time to act. Dogs have more than 220m olfactory receptors in their nose compared to around 5m in humans and can therefore detect the chemical substance emitted by affected trees before they show outward signs of infection. Studies show that they are accurate in 99.7 per cent of cases – a higher hit rate than laboratory testing...

[fruitnet.com/americafruit; 8 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

YOUR LEVY WORKING FOR YOU – GROWER LEVIES ARE USED TO FUND THE ACTIVITIES OF CGA