

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (2016_15)

John Edmonds (22 April 2016)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Argentina is the biggest producer of lemon

..."Argentina's total citrus production amounts to 2,600,000 tons, 60% of which correspond to lemons," said the president of Argentina's Citrus Federation (Federcitrus), José Carbonell. In 2015, Argentina exported 95% of the lemon it harvested for 600 million dollars; 70% of these lemons were processed and sold as juices, oil, and desiccated zest while 30% was unprocessed. The remaining 5% of production (40,000 tons) was allocated for the domestic market. Two-thirds of the lemon for export was sent to the European Union and to Russia. Producers continue working to open new markets.

"We've been working for 15 years to open the US market and I think we will succeed. The US market was closed due to phytosanitary issues. However, we are also working to enter the Chinese and Indian markets," Carbonell said, adding: "Anyway we have uncharacteristically closed markets, such as Brazil and Mexico." Argentina has 50,000 hectares devoted to the cultivation of lemons, 90% of which is located in Tucuman, and the remaining 10% is in Salta, Jujuy, Entre Rios, and Corrientes. The country's lemon average yield is 35 tons per hectare. The harvest, which lasts four to five months, employs about 50,000 people in Tucuman, the largest generator of jobs after the provincial government. In turn, there are 12 processing industries (the world's largest cluster) and some 35 to 40 packaging companies, which mainly hire women as a workforce. Unlike the vast majority of regional economies, the lemon activity is profitable in Argentina. Production costs are covered by the purchase price producers are paid, i.e. \$2 per bag (20 kilos).

[unoentrierios.com.ar via Freshplaza.com; 21 April 2016]

"EU measures will bring black spot to Europe"

Copa Cogeca has described an EU Committee agreement to weaken import controls to prevent black spot disease in citrus fruit coming into Europe when the number of outbreaks is rising as "unacceptable"...Copa and Cogeca Secretary-General Pekka Pesonen warned: "We oppose outright this decision which is due to enter into force this Summer on three accounts. "First it proposes letting contaminated citrus fruit from entering the EU for use in processing. Secondly, the Commission has proposed to delete its decision vis-a-vis ensuring that controls are stepped up after the 6th interception in the same year, despite advice from EFSA. Moreover, the Commission sent the proposal to Member States in the EU Committee only 3 days before the vote and many said this did not give them enough time to analyse it properly..."Unless the EU Commission puts in place strong measures to prevent the spread of the contagious disease, there is a serious risk it will enter the EU." "The EU citrus fruit sector is vital both from an economic and social point of view.

[poandpo.com via Freshplaza.com; 20 April 2016]

80% of Florida citrus infected by greening

Florida's citrus growers say as much as 90 percent of their acreage and 80 percent of their trees are infected by the deadly greening disease, which is making a huge dent in the state's \$10.7 billion citrus industry, a new University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences survey shows. The survey, conducted in March 2015, shows the first grower-based estimates of both the level of citrus greening in Florida and the impact of greening on citrus operations in Florida. Assistant professor Ariel Singerman and associate professor Pilar Useche, faculty members in the UF/IFAS food and resource economics department, surveyed about 200 growers to estimate their losses from the disease. They obtained about 76 completed surveys; those growers operate approximately 30 percent of Florida's citrus acreage. They also estimate greening has reduced their yield by 41 percent.

[crestviewbulletin.com; 19 April 2016]

Peruvian citrus on track for Japan

Peru's Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (Minagri) has announced that its working with Japan to resolve phytosanitary issues that could see Peruvian citrus enter Japan this August, according to Andina. Peru's National Service for Agriculture Sanitation (Senasa) is working with its Japanese counterparts on negotiation market access. "A Senasa delegation is currently in Japan and we are going through the final procedures. After that, a Japanese delegation will come in May, and that will be the last step before signing the document that would allow citrus fruits enter such country in August," Minagri's Juan Manuel Benites said. Senasa is also working with Malaysia and Vietnam to gain market access, which Benites said could be scheduled for next year.

[Fruitnet.com_Americafruit; 21 April 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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