

# GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (2016\_21)

John Edmonds (3 June 2016)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

## **South Africa: Grapefruit season is "slow going"**

Grapefruit is in demand in many markets at the moment, due partly to an early stop on supply from Israel and Turkey, and partly to a slow start in the South African season. Cobus van Graan from FruitOne said they are around halfway through the grapefruit harvest but it is slow going. "We have had to wait for the fruit to achieve good colour and are currently doing selective picking. The slow colour development means we have to pick each orchard 3 or 4 times which is very labour intensive..." Although volumes are lower than previous years, the conditions have meant that the fruit has a high brix and the internal quality and colouring are very good. The markets are enjoying good fruit which has not been stored," adds Cobus. There are around 7 weeks of harvest still to go.

[Freshplaza.com; 2June 2016]

## **Lemon production coming from two hemispheres**

US lemon district 2 is in full production..."This year's quality is very good. Temperatures have been mild and wind scar has been less than the past several years," says John Carter with Limoneira. "Production is expected to trail off as we get into July and August," he added. Elsewhere in the world, South Africa and Argentina have been shipping for a month and Chile is just now beginning. In terms of volume, South Africa and Chile are looking similar to last year. Argentina is expecting more volume than last year, but it will be more in line with historical output...Pricing continues to be strong across many of the destination markets due to solid demand. As well for Europe, inventories were lower at the start of the southern hemisphere shipping season as a result of shorter seasons in Spain and Turkey due to weather.

[Freshplaza.com; 2June 2016]

## **South Africa: Navel export taking shape**

Citrus export from South Africa is going well at the moment although some traders say that they are not doing lemons or grapefruit because they just can't get a hold of it...Navels however, are available as harvest started 2-3 weeks ago and demand is good. Gary Britz from Ele Trading said they were starting to get a bit of cold weather which is very important for colour development. "There are lots going into Canada, UK and the EU where the demand is good and the Middle East is still good prior to Ramadan. Some people have already started Valencias, but the big volumes will start in around 2-3 weeks and prices are pretty much the same in comparison to last year but the exchange rate is giving a slight advantage to the growers and exporters.

[Freshplaza.com; 2June 2016]

## **"Lemons have a great future because nothing can replace them"**

..."While, in the past, the lemon acreage was reduced because the crop was not profitable, the situation over the last three or four years has reversed..." explains Juan Antonio Canovas, president of the Murcian company Tana. "What makes lemons strong is that there is no replacement for them as an accompaniment for drinks and dishes, as well as other products. It is a product with a great future." Tana, which recently celebrated its 60th anniversary, is a second-generation family business...The company has about 410 hectares devoted to the production of lemons, grapefruit and oranges...Tana is a pioneer in the processing of lemon, grapefruit and orange products... Nowadays, it sells lemon shavings for pastry, lemon skin halves for ice cream and lemon oil for perfumes, drinks, etc. Did you know that 1,000 kilos of lemons are needed for 2 to 3 kilos of oil?...As for exports...Turkey is the main competitor in winter...while in summer, Argentinian lemons clash with the end of the Spanish campaign...When we are finished with the local production, Tana also imports the fruit from Argentina and Uruguay for the Spanish market...

[Freshplaza.com; 2June 2016]

## **Iraq replaces Russia for Turkish citrus exports**

Turkey's National Citrus Council's (UTK) Financial General Assembly recently took place in Mersin. In 2015, Russia was Turkey's biggest market for citrus exports, worth 90.52 million dollars, so far in 2016 Iraq has taken their place with exports to the country worth 84.54 million dollars. The president of the council, Kemal Kacmaz...says that the production and export of citrus is an important sector for the country; between January-April 2016, out of the citrus produced in Turkey 527,507 tons were exported bringing in 272.89 million dollars of revenue.

[Freshplaza.com; 26 May 2016]

## **Moroccan fruits enter via Shenzhen Port for the first time**

On May 16th, a big truck fully loaded with imported fresh oranges arrived at Shenzhen Bay Port. This batch of oranges is worth 14,560 US dollars with a total of 21.84 tons' weight. This is the first time that Shenzhen port imported Morocco fruits. On May 11th, China Quality Inspection and Quarantine Bureau signed a memo of understanding with the Agricultural department of Morocco, which marked the import of Morocco fruits to China. In the future, Chinese consumers can enjoy more agricultural products from this country.

[China Quality News Network via Freshplaza.com; 3June 2016]