

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (2016_22)

John Edmonds (9 June 2016)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Lemon shortage caused by short Northern Hemisphere supply

Current Harvest volumes are following the initial estimates, according to figures published by the Citrus Growers Association of Southern Africa... The grapefruit season is also running late as growers wait for the fruit to colour-up. This is creating good demand and market prices... "We have sent more lemons into Europe than we have in previous years to date and so have Argentina, who are getting back to normal volumes. The reason for the big demand is probably more due to an early stop of the Northern Hemisphere supply with both Spain and Turkey stopping earlier than normal," explains Justin Chadwick from the CGA... Generally all markets are retuning well at the moment, but there are concerns that the Far East may become oversupplied as other producing countries reach full production. Most of the soft citrus is grown in the south of the country so was not affected by the heat and drought conditions, so sizes and brix are normal... The EU has also reduced restrictions on CBS for this season... "The five strikes rule was arbitrary and unscientific and has been done away with now, interceptions will still be investigated to see what went wrong in the screening process. Uruguay and Brazil will also be controlled but other big exporters are still not on the list... The markets are all looking good just now, we just have to make sure we continue to supply the markets with volumes and quality to maintain those prices."

[Freshplaza.com; 8 June 2016]

Argentina: "European market paying great prices for our oranges"

... the demand for Argentinian oranges is very good at the moment, mainly from Europe, Russia and Canada," affirms Diego Pérez, of Cauquen. "Although prices in Russia have fallen due to the holidays, the European market is offering better prices than last year. At the moment, we are receiving 11 dollars for a 15 kilo box of oranges and 10 dollars for every 10 kilos of mandarins, but it is still uncertain how the season will end, as competition with Peru and South Africa is still very strong, given that we started the season at around the same time... Also, the agreement between the United States and Argentina for the export of lemons to this market should be signed later this year. If all goes as expected, this agreement would have consequences also for sweet citrus in the near future..."

[Freshplaza.com; 9 June 2016]

Spain: 31,168 unlicensed Orri mandarin trees removed

The voluntary regularization process of illegal Orri mandarin plantations has already resulted in the removal of around 31,168 trees in Spain... As for the trees which have yet to be regularised voluntarily, so far more than 38,000 have been detected in Spain... The first of these legal actions is directed against those who are civilly or criminally responsible for the illegal exploitation of Orri mandarins. Furthermore, the Orri Running Committee (ORC) continues to inspect productions and farms to detect more irregular plantations... The ORC, which brings together more than 390 producers of Orri mandarins, has stressed that there are currently no plans to increase the quota of licensed trees of the variety in Spain and Portugal, set for both countries at 1.3 million trees...

[Freshplaza.com; 9 June 2016]

EU confirms protection for the Tango mandarin against the Nadorcott

... On May 31, the Board of Appeal of the Community Plant Variety Office announced its decision of upholding the arguments that the University of California Riverside (UCR) and Eurosemillas presented in the long judicial and administrative battle they have with the Club of Protected Plant Varieties (CVVP), the manager of the Nadorcott mandarin in Spain, and with Nadorcott Protection SARL (NCP), which owns the Nadorcott mandarin, which originated in Morocco.

According to the Community's resolution, the Tango variety is different to all other varieties and is eligible to be registered and protected throughout the European Union (EU) as it is also homogeneous and stable... The decision, against which there is no more administrative appeal, is consistent with the decisions taken earlier by the authorities in the field from the US, Spain and, more recently, South Africa...

[Freshplaza.com; 8 June 2016]

USDA develops acoustic trap in fight against citrus greening

An acoustic trap developed by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) scientists may offer an eco-friendly solution to control the pest that causes the devastating citrus greening disease... Agricultural Research Service (ARS) entomologist Richard Mankin has now designed an acoustic trap based on his experience investigating how insect pests use their sense of smell, sight or hearing to locate food and mates. Mankin worked alongside University of Florida graduate students to decode the pest's signalling patterns and recreated them with electronics including a buzzer and a microphone, according to the ARS. The organization said while many of the traps now used to control insects use pheromones to lure pests into traps, the acoustic trap mimics the wing-buzzing vibrations male and female psyllids used to locate and court one another in citrus trees. In citrus trees, a male psyllid normally crawls to the female after it responds to the male's wing-buzzing vibrations. In laboratory studies, however, the trap is also listening to this vibration, and it responds a tenth of a second or two before the female with a fake signal, luring the males into a nearby sticky trap.

Mankin's team is refining the trap for outdoor testing this summer.

[Freshfruitportal.com; 7 June 2016]