GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (2016_24)

John Edmonds (24 June 2016) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

"Without a doubt, the EU will have fewer lemons in June, July and August"

Since the start of Argentina's lemon exports, there has been great uncertainty in the lemon market. For this reason, Walter Ojeda, commercial manager of San Miguel…has presented a balance of the Argentinian lemon campaign and explained the current outlook. "At the beginning of the 2016 campaign, our export estimates pointed to levels that would exceed those of 2015 by an average of 55%....At the start of the season, it was confirmed that Spain would record a 60% drop in the production of Verna lemons; this entailed a decline of more than 160,000 tonnes and would have resulted in a great context for the early Argentinian harvest. Unfortunately, climate changes made it impossible to meet those expectations. "With the season that Spain was facing, Argentina's premature start was almost certain, with shipments going to Europe about 6 weeks earlier compared to last year, which would have allowed Argentina to export nearly 300,000 tonnes compared to 190,000 tonnes last season," assures Ojeda…"But the weather played tricks on us…the amount of rainfall was unusual. In those months, it was not possible to work properly…What was lost, will remain lost," asserts the representative of San Miguel…"While the campaign has not finished yet, Argentina has exported 87,000 tonnes up until week 23, which is about 50,000 tonnes less than the estimate for that date. But if we look at these figures from another point of view, last year, in the same period, we had exported 60,000 tonnes, which means a 45% growth. However, in the months of June, July and August, the European Union will have fewer lemons available than last year, about 30% to 40% less fruit. The main factor is the drop in the Spanish production, which was not offset by Argentina's shipments…
[Freshplaza.com; 17 June 2016]

Chile fills organic lemon shortfall.

As Chilean lemons begin to return to European shelves, Dutch organics specialist Eosta has found itself in a strong position on the market due to a shortage of organic lemons from South Africa. Citrus product manager Pieter de Keijzer commented: "As most of our customers know, we have a very limited supply of South African lemons this year. This is unfortunate particularly when you realise how strong the demand is for premium organic lemons. The good news is that we are once again in a position to offer product from our growers in Chile and from what I have seen, the quality and quantity is looking good. "Organic lemons are very popular and every year we see a growth in demand," he continued…
[www.fruitnet.com/americafruit; 17 June 2016]

Argentina reports new HLB cases

…national plant health authority Senasa reported that seven positive cases of HLB were detected in samples of plant material taken in the departments of Iguazú and Eldorado, in the province of Misiones. Three of the samples were found on commercial farms and four in private gardens in urban areas. Industry representatives stressed that region where the positive samples were found is several hundred away from Northwest Argentina, which last month secured a pledge from the US that it would reopen its market to Argentine lemons "within weeks"…
[www.fruitnet.com/americafruit; 16 June 2016]

Spain: The CVVP ratifies its statements about Nadorcott and Tang Gold

The Club of Protected Plant Varieties (CLUB) and Nador Cott Protection have ratified the information about the decisions of the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) that was released by its press release on 9 June and categorically deny having "falsified" any of the data…"We insist that the Board of Appeal has rejected the existence of additional differences to those initially identified in the decision of October 2014, fully dismissing the appeal made by the University of California and sentencing it to pay the costs. Furthermore, the Board of Appeal has admitted the position of Nador Cott Protection and the CLUB and has ruled out two of the four initially identified differences, noting that only two differences exist between the Tang Gold and Nadorcott: viable pollen and the number of seeds in cross-pollination conditions…"The Board of Appeal confirms…that, if any differences exist between the two varieties, these differences, at best, would apply only to the fertility of the variety. And in these circumstances, as already announced by IVIA in its report of 17 September, 2014, the Tang Gold should be considered a variety essentially derived from the Nadorcott, an issue that is still pending resolution in the courts," they conclude.
[Freshplaza.com; 17 June 2016]

"South Africa treated unfairly in CBS measures"

The South African citrus season has started with high prices…There are only small volumes available and as soon are there is a shortage of something you see the prices go up," says Randolf Aaldijk of Origin Fruit Direct. "Lemons have been doing well since the start of the season. Mandarins have also been doing well all season and you see more waves in grapefruit. The sales of oranges are a bit slower. The season started three weeks earlier, but there are also oranges from Spain, Greece, Egypt and Morocco on the market and they're bothering each other…The black spot issue also continues to occupy the importers and producers…What we see is that the South African growers we work with are conscious of the importance of CBS…"I dare say that out of all countries South Africa has CBS best under control, but if CBS is found on citrus from South Africa or Uruguay, the fruit has to be sent back or find a different destination outside the EU. If the citrus comes from Brazil - or a different third country - the fruit can also be destroyed (or processed into the juice industry) in the EU member states. I don't understand this inequality, but apparently there are higher powers at play."
[Freshplaza.com; 17June 2016]