# GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (2016_29)

John Edmonds (29 July 2016)
Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

**South African citrus volumes drop further**

The South African citrus export crop has dropped even further than initial estimates predicted, as growers start their Valencia crop…South Africa's citrus growers' association (CGA) now says its Valencia advisory group has forecast a further drop of nearly 5m cartons, representing a reduction of nearly 13 per cent compared with last year when 118.4m cartons were exported…"As growers start to harvest their Valencias it has been apparent that the fruit is just not there," says the CGA. "Despite an excellent pack-out, the crop load is small. Most ascribe this to fruit drop due to the heat and dry conditions over the last summer."…
*[www.fruitnet.com/Eurofruit; 25 July 2016]*

**Europe will have 50% fewer Uruguayan citrus this campaign"**

… "The heavy rains have postponed our citrus harvests by more than two weeks. While the volumes are not being affected, the fruit quality has been reduced, so we face a difficult season," affirms Mónica Coito, of Naranjales Guarino…"Our estimations point to Uruguayan citrus shipments to Europe falling by at least 50%...Our returns are up by an average of 20%, both in the case of lemons as well as with mandarins and oranges," states the representative. "Given this situation, we are now facing more direct competition with Peru. They are growing a lot in terms of volume and are gaining market share which was once ours. One of their main advantages is that they have lower production costs, allowing them to get more competitive prices…
*[Freshplaza.com; 22 July 2016]*

**Ailimpo expects Spanish lemon jump**

Ailimpo's initial lemon harvest estimate forecast for the 2016/17 season points toward a production figure in Spain of 980,000 tonnes, a 22 per cent increase on production in 2015/16 which closed in August at 802,680 tonnes. With production for the upcoming season nearly reaching 1m tonnes, Spain has recovered to normal figures thanks to the effect of new plantations, though it has not reached the potential crop of 1.2m tonnes due to what Ailimpo called "unusual weather conditions this year, with no real winter but a very long spring". According to the group, Spain will continue consolidating its dominant position in the European market, where it is the undisputed leader with a market share of over 80 per cent. The lemon season will start during September, with harvest and export activity developing at good speed in October…
*[www.fruitnet.com/Eurofruit; 25 July 2016]*

**UK lemon market grows by £14 million**

Thanks predominantly to shoppers buying them more often, retail sales of lemons in the UK are up 13.6% on last year to 47,000 tons. Kantar Worldpanel data also shows that the 5.3% rise in the frequency of lemon purchases helped push up the lemon spend to a total of £87.6 million for the 52 weeks to May 22 this year, meaning the lemon market grew by 19.2% or just over £14 million. The average price paid per kilo was up 4.88% on that for the same period a year ago, to £1.86.
*[www.eurofresh-distribution.com; 25 July 2016]*

**US: South African citrus competing with Chilean fruit**

The South African soft citrus season started early this year…"We've had really good supply from early June," said Marc Solomon from Capespan North America. "… It's gone really well; the volume's up and quality has been really good. There's still fruit in the market but arrivals are tapering off."…"There's a lot of Chilean soft citrus in the market. Their volume is up significantly and there's also fruit in the market from Uruguay," said Solomon. "There's definitely more than enough fruit in the marketplace." He anticipates pressure will be put on prices until August. "In August we'll get into the later varieties - Murcotts. Then we expect the market to improve."…Navel season is also starting – South African navels started within the last couple of weeks…"By the first of August we anticipate most or all of our clients will have finished the Californian supply and be on South African navels." Although not a new variety, the lesser-known Cara Cara navels seem to be doing well…Another item Solomon says is gaining popularity is star ruby grapefruit. "…It's a really good quality piece of fruit. Traditionally it hasn't come to the US but for the last few years it has been coming and doing very well." Fruit quality and colour continues to make South African's citrus look like "It's looking like an exceptionally good season."
*[Freshplaza.com; 26 July 2016]*

**Houston, no problem for South African citrus**

Summer Citrus from South Africa (SCSA) has seen an 300% year-on-year increase in tonnage flowing through the Port of Houston this season…around 50 000 metric tons (MT) of South African Navel oranges, easy peelers, Midknights and grapefruit are imported to the U.S. each year. Most of this volume enters through the ports of Philadelphia and New York…The Port of Houston is currently the only southern U.S. port approved by the (USDA) for the fruit's specific cold treatment program…"With the complex USDA regulations, we are pleased that we have been able to accommodate the South African program," said Port of Houston Authority senior director of trade development John Moseley…
*[Freshfruitportal.com; 28 July 2016]*