GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (2016_30)

John Edmonds (5 August 2016) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Limoneira launches lemon days

As things heat up in the US during August, California-based agri-business Limoneira is calling on consumers to celebrate all things lemon. The company has launched several national lemon days, with a range of citrus dessert recipes put together by dietician and Limoneira spokesperson Megan Roosevelt to complement the days. Lemon Meringue Day will kick off the citrus agenda on 15 August, with Lemonade Day following on 20 August. Later in the year, Lemon Crème Pie Day on 29 November and Lemon Cupcake Day on 15 December have been scheduled in
[www.fruitnet.com/Americafruit; 29 July 2016]

UK: Organic farm snaps up 40,000 'ugly' lemons

Riverford, an organic food box company, has bought more than 40,000 lemons deemed "too ugly" to be sold in supermarkets. The six tonnes of the fruit were rejected by two major supermarkets as "unsuitable to meet retailer specification based on appearance", reports the BBC…Eight pallets of boxes of Spanish lemons each stacked about 7ft (two metres) high arrived late last week…"This is another example of a crazy food system that has forgotten it's producing food, not kitchen ornaments," James Negus, from the company's Sacrewell Farm, near Peterborough, said. "The lemons are slightly green in areas, due to not enough difference between night and daytime temperatures, and have a few scars from hail damage." The company's chefs described them as "beautiful, ripe, aromatic lemons with plenty of juice and flavour". Riverford did not get a discount on the lemons, Mr Negus said. "We feel a fair price should be paid to the farmer."
[Freshplaza.com; 3 August 2016]

U.S.: Cal Poly takes natural approach to stamping out HLB vector

Cal Poly Pomona is using biological controls in an attempt to better tackle the problem of Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP), the pest that spreads citrus greening disease...Abc7.com reported Cal Poly Pomona researchers were breeding sting-less wasps in a greenhouse to help contain ACP populations. “Parasitic insects will eat the insects that carry the disease or feed on the insects that carry the disease and minimize the problem in that manner,” Cal Poly Pomona professor Valerie Mellano was quoted as saying. The wasps in question are ‘Tamarixia, which feed on the pest and “go where pesticides cannot”, the broadcaster reported. “There are a lot of people that have citrus trees in their backyards. It’s very hard to control with pesticides from the point of view of gaining access,” Mellano was quoted as saying. Grace Radabaugh of the California Department of Food and Agriculture said the plan was to release 30,000 wasps in Southern California...
[Freshfruitportal.com; 1 August 2016]

U.S. scientist pinpoints citrus trees’ most vulnerable stage for HLB infection

…In a release, the ARS highlighted HLB has cost Florida citrus growers an estimated US$1.3 billion since 2005, with the disease caused by a bacterium spread by the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP)…In his research, Hall studied whether trees were more susceptible when producing new leaves-a cyclical phase known as “flush” that happens three or four times a year. … “The results indicate that trees in flush had much higher infection rates than the “no flush” trees, and that the first group of trimmed trees (old flush) experienced the highest infection rates,” the ARS said. “In one trial, trees exposed to HLB at their old flush stage were 80 percent infected, those exposed during young flush were 23 percent infected, and those with no flush were only 3 percent infected. “The findings show growers the importance of monitoring for psyllids when the trees are in flush, and that it’s the older-flush trees they really need to worry about and target with insecticides,” Hall added.
[Freshfruitportal.com; 4 August 2016]

California citrus acreage rose slightly in last two years

Estimates from the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) show a hefty increase in mandarin planting has offset a declining production area for most citrus varieties in the state since 2014…The survey showed total citrus acreage rose 1% from 2014 to 2016, reaching 264,520 acres. The largest increase was from mandarins and mandarin hybrids (+27%; 58,941 acres), followed by limes (+24%; 631 acres) and lemons (+1%; 44,621 acres). The biggest percentage drop was from the relatively low-production crop of pummelos and its hybrids, falling 14% to 1,144 acres. In terms of the state’s mainstay crops though, the Navel orange-producing land declined by 4% to 120,784 acres, Valencia acreage dropped 12% to 29,906 acres and grapefruit-growing land was reduced by 2% to 8,493 acres.
[Freshfruitportal.com; 5 August 2016]