GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (2016_31)

John Edmonds (12 August 2016) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

US citrus market slow, currency a challenge in UK

The lemon harvest is over, mandarins and Late Navels are in full swing, and Valencias will be harvested from next week. "We started with late Navel varieties last week and are in full swing with Orr and Mor mandarins varieties," explains Hendrick Warnich, from ALG Estates in Citrusdal, South Africa. "Volumes of early soft citrus were up a bit but mandarins may be less due to an alternative year, but new orchards coming into production will balance supply. We just started harvesting Valencias and volume on both Valencias and Navels may be slightly down." Lemons are now finished in the Western Cape, they saw a very good crop with nice prices in most markets, but the European markets really stood out this season. US market could have been more positive, according to Hendrik…The US stayed a bit longer on its local products and South Africa was a bit earlier with more volumes than normal, there also seems to be more coming from South America than normal. The EU is a bit over supplied on big fruit at the moment but short on smaller sizes. This could be due to the fact that the northern regions of South Africa had a lot of big fruit. The Middle East market is still strong and hasn't shown any signs of slowing down and prices are still good. Fears earlier in the season that the market would be flooded with small and medium sized fruit have not materialised as yet. One problem facing South African exporters at the moment is the exchange rate. The Pound has significantly dropped against the Rand since the Brexit referendum. On a more positive note, fears of a continued dry winter have been dispelled as after an initially dry autumn, the rains came allowing the dams and rivers in the Western Cape to fill up and it is looking very positive again, according to Hendrik.

[Freshplaza.com; 11 August 2016]

US Demand for mandarins increasing, even in summer

California's citrus growers and marketers have done a good job in recent years of putting easy peelers at the fore of consumer attention. That's led to an uptick in demand for mandarins, even in the summer months when U.S. consumers get their easy peelers from overseas. “The demand for imported citrus during the summer increases every year, and I think that's reflective of demand for domestic fruit,” said Linda Cunningham of Classic Harvest Produce. “Big marketing programs are driving a lot of demand at the retail level, and that's helping move summer imports.” Mandarin imports are currently arriving from Chile and Peru, and Cunningham says she's seen an increase in shipments from both countries over the years. Clementines have arrived in good volumes and shipments of W. Murcotts are ramping up. “We're heading into a traditional gap when Chile finishes up their Clementines and we see more W. Murcotts,” noted Cunningham. “We won't see a supply gap, but, depending on where one gets their fruit and how they planned, you could see that elsewhere.” Current prices are steady, but that could change if there is a supply gap…“I think the market will hold pretty steady where it's at, though we might see a slight uptick if there's less Chilean fruit in the next few weeks,” she said. “Traditionally, W. Murcotts also get premium prices compared to Clementines.” On the open market, prices for a carton of size 20 Clementines from Chile were between $26.00 and $30.00 at Los Angeles ports of entry on August 9, and prices for a carton of size 36 fruit were between $20.00 and $24.00.

[Freshplaza.com; 11 August 2016]

Nature & More launches Bug

Organic specialist Nature & More has given the sweet wrapper a modern twist with the launch of the Bug fruit wrapper. Available with **organic South African Sun Valley oranges**, the Bug wrapper can be turned into a fun, interactive beetle, while at the same time allowing young consumers to learn more about how organic farmers work with nature and, in particular, with insects…

[www.fruitnet.com/fpj. 9 August 2016]

China: SA Orange price surges while kiwi and avocado prices drop significantly

This week the price of imported orange category keeps surging on the Chinese market, led by South African citrus. Taking South African grapefruit as one example, its price increased from 130 Yuan/box (around 18 Euro) from the beginning of this season to 170 Yuan/box. In comparison, the price of South African oranges also increased from 140-150 Yuan per box to 210 Yuan a box. In the opinion of some local fruit importers, these price increases are caused by both the extreme hot weather conditions in the past weeks in Eastern China, and because the quality of South African import citrus is increasing now the season is moving onwards...

[Freshplaza.com; 9 August 2016]

Mexico begins lemon export to US

…Mexico started shipping this citrus product to the United States. Shipments will continue until December 5...This process began on July 25 this year in Tamaulipas, as this entity produces an average of 90,000 tons of Italian lemon within approximately 4,000 hectares. 65,000 tons of this production are for the juice industry…Humberto Ramirez Vazquez, head of the Sub-Directorate of Federal Plant Health, said there were only three states in Mexico that sent the fruit packed to the neighbouring country: Yucatan, San Luis Potosi, and Tamaulipas. That's why Tamaulipas is expected to export more than 30,000 tons of Italian lemon to the US in 2016, thus maintaining the exports achieved in 2015.The presence of the Italian lemon produced in Tamaulipas, he said, has been strengthened in global markets after the state exported more than 25,000 tons of it in the previous period...

[Freshplaza.com; 9 August 2016]