

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (2016_34)

John Edmonds (1 September 2016)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Unprecedented high prices for Valencias in Middle East

South African Valencias will finish earlier this season as volumes are lower than normal. The crop suffered damage in the northern production areas of the country due the hail and drought conditions. Late rains in the northern parts also resulted in unexpected size increases for grapefruit, navels and Valencias. "The general fruit sizing was much bigger than what we predicted and this skewed the normal size distribution of our fruit," explained Cobus van Graan from FruitOne. "What you see from the market information is that Europe has been over supplied with larger fruit and clients requesting smaller sized fruit to balance the offering." "Clients in the EU require a range of sizes and since exporters delivered a lot of big fruit during the beginning of the season, now smaller fruit that would normally be destined for other markets such as the Middle East, is being redirected to Europe. There is very little fruit going to the Middle East at the moment resulting in unprecedented high prices for Valencias in Middle East. Normally the price for Valencias in the Middle East will commence at normal levels and reduce gradually, the inverse has been true this season." "The result of this has been more stability in fixed price markets, less price fluctuation and hence "surprises", according to Cobus. Importers are thus more confident on the market potential and sales through the channel at workable selling prices. Russia has been under pressure as this market which traditionally likes the big sizes, have been over-supplied due to the generally larger fruit sizing of navels and Valencias. There was also Egyptian fruit on the Russian market very late so the window for South African fruit was reduced.

[Freshplaza.com; 28 August 2016]

Spanish citrus season set to be early with small sizings, says importer

A hot and dry summer in Spain is likely to bring the upcoming citrus season forward a few days and lead to a higher proportion of smaller-sized fruit, according to a Belgium-based importer. "It's not a huge crop but there's enough fruit, however there will be a lot of small sizes because of the drought," said Central Fruit manager William Willems. He said Spain experienced high temperatures and little rain during the summer, and for that reason the country had a normal crop but with quite a lot of small-sized fruit. Also because of the weather the Brix levels are higher than they are in normal years, and that will give us fruit maybe a week more in advance."...The representative added that the European market continued to face citrus shortages, most notably of Valencia oranges due to lower South African supplies. "It's still a market where there is not a lot of extra volumes in stock available," he said. "There was a little gap in between Spain and overseas earlier in the year, but also the production overseas is quite limited this season. There are a lot of big sizes, especially in the Valencia types, and big sizes means less fruit mostly." "The biggest problem is in the Valencia types; Midnight, Delta seedless. For Navel oranges volumes are more or less normal. There's just enough. For soft citrus the situation is normal as well." Data from the Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa shows shipments so far this season are down 2 million boxes year-on-year at 20.8 million...

[Freshfruitportal.com; 28 August 2016]

Prices good as Israeli citrus arrives early

Harvesting of red pomelos in Israel got underway about two weeks sooner than usual this year, and it's expected that harvesting of other Israeli citrus items will also begin early. Though there is still South African fruit available in Europe, Israeli shippers are seeing strong prices for their early citrus varieties. "I don't remember a season when pomelos started this early," noted Befresh Europe's Oron Ziv. "We shipped our first container of fruit last week. For grapefruit, there should be fruit in Europe by week 37, which is very early." Israeli citrus shippers usually have the European market to themselves until October, which is when Turkish and Spanish fruit start arriving on the market. "We're not coming into an empty market in Europe, but prices are high," he explained. "Turkish grapefruit could also come in early, but we'll have four or five weeks during which we can expect high prices. Because Egypt doesn't really grow grapefruit, Turkey and Spain are our main competitors, so it's just a question of how long that window will be open for us."...

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Argentina: Tucuman has already harvested 80% of the lemon for export

Tucuman has already harvested nearly 80% of its lemons for export, and so far the quality and health of the fruit that is arriving at the international markets is very good. To achieve this, producers have taken thorough care of their plantations and the Senasa conducts controls that are giving good results, said the coordinator of the Senasa's regional Plant Health in South NOA, Rafael Rodríguez Prados..."By August 17 total exports of citrus fruit to international markets had amounted to some 305,403 tons, 206,244 of which were sent to the European Union (EU), and the rest to other countries. 77.3% of the citrus exported, (i.e. 236,657 tons) were of lemon. Argentina has about 132,000 hectares of citrus. Tucuman's lemon production is very important; it is the country's leading producer of lemon because of its export capacity...25% of the production is exported and 70% is industrialized. The main destinations are the European Union, Russia, and Canada. The United States is in the process of opening its market..."Argentina has more than 112 industrial plants and more than 400 packaging plants...

[Freshplaza.com; 28 August 2016]