

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (2017_1)

John Edmonds (13 January 2017)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

McEvoy honored by United Fresh

The United Fresh Produce Association honoured long-time produce industry executive Bruce McEvoy with a Lifetime Achievement Award at its Produce Legends Dinner Jan. 10 during the annual Midwinter Leadership Meeting. The dinner held in his honour featured food stations from all parts of the world in homage to his far-reaching career with such industry powerhouses as Sunkist, DuPont and finally Seald Sweet, from which he retired as president in 2004 but remains as a government relations consultant. In accepting the award, McEvoy stressed the importance of teamwork, which he credited for his success in the industry. He was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2008 and now serves as the board chairman of his local Alzheimer/Parkinson's Association chapter and has become a tireless champion for the cause, advocating on Capitol Hill for legislation to increase funding for research.

[ProduceNews.net; 11 January 2017]

"Overflowing supply of Egyptian oranges expected in Europe"

The first containers of Navels from Egypt arrived at Marni Fruit yesterday. "We have now been active in the import of Egyptian citrus for around six years and receive a little more every year," says Patrick Konings. He is biting his nails this year. "I expect a difficult season. There is over-production, mainly of large sizes. I hope we won't get dumping prices, but I'm afraid we might. Prices of 9-10 Euros for the first arrivals is actually too low." The Navel season is followed by the Baladi's, after which the first Valencias arrive in February. "Where we mostly received small sizes last year, it is the opposite now. The small sizes are sought after by packagers, so it's possible there may be some money to be made there," continues the importer. He names the weather conditions as an advantage compared to the Spanish oranges. "You can be certain of one thing, the fruit always grows and it's always available. You couldn't say that of Spain in recent weeks."

"Last year some containers with Egyptian citrus were destroyed due to excessive MRLs. The checks are strict, particularly for destinations such as the Far East and China, and this brings people to Europe. There will be stricter checks in the Netherlands over the coming year on the values and excesses. I do believe the quality of the Egyptian oranges is improving over the years. Of course there are differences, but most packaging stations are up to date and have a good quality of oranges arriving," concludes Patrick.

[www.freshplaza.com; 9 January 2017]

Spanish citrus campaign goes from bad to worse

Spanish citrus producers say a decision by the European Union to reduce tariffs on South African citrus imports is compounding a "disastrous" campaign in which losses have already run into hundreds of millions of euros following last year's flooding and earlier drought... The Citrus Management Committee (CGC) said South African oranges were widely available in European supermarkets throughout December even though a drought in southern Africa had brought an earlier than expected end to the season. "In many cases, the quality of these oranges has been very poor because they have already been in storage for weeks," CGC spokesman Rafa Quillis told Fruitnet... According to Quillis, December's heavy rains have brought the Spanish clementine season to an abrupt end and will bring forward harvesting of late season mandarins, Navels and Valencia oranges. Thousands of hectares remain waterlogged or flooded, causing widespread cases of pitted, cracked skin and even fruit rot. "Having visited groves to assess the extent of the damage, companies are fine-tuning harvesting, packing and shipment schedules in order to avoid any loss of fruit quality," he explained. "In spite of this, some consignments have already been rejected, forcing them to be even more vigilant." Forecasts at the outset of the season pointed to a total Spanish citrus crop of just over 7m tonnes, although an abundance of smaller sizes caused by the prolonged drought meant significantly less fruit would be available for export. Quillis said the 2016/17 campaign had been effectively destroyed by the climate – beginning with the summer drought and ensuing small sizes, then the unseasonably mild autumn which discouraged demand and finally December's heavy rains and floods. "We have gone from expecting an abundant supply to facing the prospect of a shortage of late season mandarins," he said. "However, hopefully the rainfall will go some way in mitigating the sizing issue during the latter stages of the season."

[Americafruit; 5 January 2017]