GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (2017_6)

John Edmonds (23 February 2017)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Spanish mandarin production much greater than last year

Preliminary data on the production of mandarins in Spain in the 2016/2017 campaign, point to the total volume reaching 2,446 million tonnes, compared to 1,972 million tonnes in the previous season. The production in the current season is thus expected to grow by about 24 percent. A considerable volume of Spanish mandarins is intended for direct consumption in the domestic market. In this 2016/2017 campaign, this figure is expected to reach 460 thousand tonnes, compared to 397.3 thousand tonnes in the previous season. Spain is not only the largest producer of mandarins, but also the largest exporter. In the 2016/2017 campaign, the country plans to ship about 1.7 million tonnes of the fruit, compared to 1.49 million tonnes in the previous year. By far, the largest importers of Spanish mandarins are EU countries, which account for about 91 percent of the total exports. In the previous season, the fruit went mostly to Germany (421.6 thousand tonnes), France (364.7 thousand tonnes) and the UK (a little under 159.0 thousand tonnes). A lot of Spanish mandarins also went to Poland. Imports are marginal in comparison. In the 2016/2017 season, they are expected to amount to just 13 thousand tonnes. Moreover, about 300 thousand tonnes of mandarins will be used for processing (mainly for canning).
[fresh-market.pl; 17 February 2017]

US lobby prevents the entry of Argentine lemons

The road to unlock the suspension of the entry of Argentinian lemons into the US, which the Trump administration sought after only three days in office, has become difficult because of the strong lobby of citrus growers in California and Arizona. The government of Mauricio Macri and producers from Tucuman are hoping the US government will allow these imports while American producers are working to ensure it doesn't happen.
[Freshplaza.com; 16 February 2017]

Israel: Jaffa Orri finds new markets

…The Orri brand is very important to Jaffa. Between 2009 and 2010, the Orri became big and it needs the support of our branding," said Tal Amit from the Plants Marketing Board of Israel…We also licence growers in Spain, but we’re talking 60 to 70 thousand tons that would be of Spanish origin. Our forecast for 2020 is 200,000 tons. This year, we’ll export 90,000 tons, out of 135,000 tons production. Spain is aiming for 33,000 tons…"This year, we plan to increase our export to two markets in Asia Pacific, Japan and China, in order to see how we can develop the markets over there. We are conducting market research in China and Japan to learn about the potential and how to grow Jaffa Orri sales in these important markets. Jaffa Orri is well positioned in Western Europe but that market is close to saturation." "I see Jaffa Orri mandarins expanding into markets in America and the Far East as we develop new markets. Exactly how we want to grow is the main question. But I think that, at the end of the day, quality wins," stated Amit.
[Freshplaza.com; 17 February 2017]

Weather to result in fewer Argentine lemons and later start date

The head of the Argentine Citrus Federation (Fedecitrus) has said weather-related factors will result in two notable effects on the South American country’s upcoming lemon season. “One the one hand, there will be a drop in production. Argentina is going to have at least 10% fewer lemons compared to last year and a lot less than we can produce on a normal year,” the group’s president José Carbonell said. “In addition, the sizing of the fruit has been delayed and that means that campaign is going to start in April.” Carbonell explained there had been a very dry summer in Argentina, along with a water shortage in the north of the country, which had affected production…Argentina’s lemon exports in 2016 jumped 46% year-on-year to around 270,000 metric tons (MT), but were still far lower than the record of 450,000MT that was achieved in 2008…Carbonell also expects to see “stable prices” and, despite the lower production, exports levels similar to or higher than last year, with less fruit to be sold on the domestic market. “Today we have less fruit but better quality,” he said…The representative also expects the Brazilian market to open “imminently” and says the industry is working hard to gain Mexican market access.…
[Freshfruitportal.com; 21 February 2017]

Aussies aim to boost fresh reputation in Asia.

Grower-owned body Horticulture Innovation Australia (Hort Innovation) has announced a new A$16.5m strategy to boost Australia’s reputation as a producer of premium fresh produce. The four year project will focus on ensuring end-buyers in Asia…Delivered in partnership with Queensland’s Department of Agriculture (DAF) and Fishers, and Victoria’s Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR), the project aims to create efficiencies in export operations from packing to storing to reduce the time between produce being picked and being sold in stores across Asia. John Lloyd, CEO of Hort Innovation, said that monitoring the supply chain will offer growers a better picture of the condition their produce is in when it arrives in country…Australia exports 10 per cent of its horticultural produce, with shipments to Asia rising almost 170 per cent in the past five years, according to Hort Innovation.
[Asiafruit; 21 February 2017]