

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (2017_7)

John Edmonds (3 March 2017)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Weather gives the worldwide mandarin market a boost

Wacky worldwide weather has affected mandarin crops but possibly in a good way. For Dinuba, Ca.-based Classic Harvest, it's signalling a change for its California mandarin crop. "We pick a lot of Tangos but we're exporting most of our California crop this year and using Spain, Morocco and Israel to cover our U.S. retail program," says Linda Cunningham of Classic, noting that East Coast retailers like the quality of the Israel fruit. "It's a little different than what a lot of the other California shippers are doing. But what we see in the marketplace is that there are a lot of California shippers with fruit still on the tree because everything's been delayed with the rain." At the same time, Cunningham predicts a positive year from its overseas growers. "We're increasing our volume from Israel right now," says Cunningham. Add to that the fact that Morocco and Spain are winding down their seasons—Spain earlier than usual thanks to weather—and that kicks off a new batch of imports of Satsumas from Peru. "Peru will start about two weeks early... "We're excited. I think Peru is going to have a good year. And Chile is very early—they had a hot growing season so we still have some time to see how the fruit does as it grows," she says. "We'll have a good year from Chile. We have a couple of our growers who have a lot of new plantings coming on in Chile this year so we're excited." ...

[Freshplaza.com; 3 March 2017]

Grapefruit opportunities in Korea

Florida grapefruit growers are being encouraged to expand their shipments to Korea, University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences UF/IFAS researchers say, given a growing trend among – particularly young – consumers to eat the fruit as dessert or as a snack. UF/IFAS researchers are doing a series of surveys for the Florida Department of Citrus, comparing the consumer behaviour and market potential for grapefruit in the US, Europe and Asia. In the latest study, Yan Heng, a postdoctoral researcher in the UF/IFAS food and resources economics department, conducted an online poll of 992 South Korean female shoppers over 20 years old. She found South Korea may be a growing market for US grapefruit... In addition to eating grapefruit, South Koreans also use grapefruit in beer, tea and ice cream, so marketing opportunities abound... US growers account for 60 per cent of all the grapefruit imported by South Korea...

[Americafruit; 28 February 2017]

San Miguel launches public share offering

San Miguel, the leading producer and exporter of fresh citrus in the Southern Hemisphere, has launched a public share offering to fund its ongoing global expansion. The Argentinean company has issued 67.2m new shares, representing 9.46 per cent of its share capital, to raise US\$49.3m. The offer will close on 7 March. This will leave owners the Miguens and Otero Monsegur families with a 51 per cent share divided in equal parts... San Miguel exports more than 100,000 tonnes of fresh citrus a year and processes another 400,000 tonnes at its three processing plants in Argentina, Uruguay and South Africa. It has an annual turnover of US\$250m, with oranges, mandarins and grapefruit now accounting for more than half of the group's sales.

[Asiafruit; 28 February 2017]

Spanish citrus exports to China have tripled three campaigns in a row

The Citrus Management Committee (CGC), the association that brings together Spain's largest private citrus exporters, has commented on reports about alleged problems in the supply to the Chinese market. The CGC has stressed that, since 2014, when this country re-opened to Spanish oranges and mandarins, the volumes shipped have actually tripled each year... Far from having a negative impact, the strong rainfall that struck one of Spain's main producing areas in November and December (the Region of Valencia) served to improve the calibres of the mid-season oranges that are now being harvested, which had been somewhat affected by the effects of the previous drought. The severe damage caused then, which has considerably reduced the supply of Spanish citrus fruits, affected mostly clementines, which were hit by various issues caused by the excess moisture... During the current season, the Navelina and Navel varieties exported to the Asian giant are the overwhelming majority (5,441 out of the 6,431 tonnes shipped in the 2016/2017 campaign)... Furthermore, the CGC denies that the rains or the cold have taken a toll on the sugar-acidity levels or affected the sweetness of the oranges, which are in excellent condition this season. "The shipments, given the incipient demand, kicked off a month and a half earlier, and at that time it was possible to come across some specific cases of unripe fruit, but the importers who accepted those first operations were fully aware of the time of the year it was, and in spite of everything, the analyses prove that the fruit met the required quality parameters," explain sources from the committee.

[Freshplaza.com; 3 March 2017]