

Global Citrus Scan (2017_13)

John Edmonds (12 April 2017)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Delays for Peruvian Satsuma mandarin campaign

...Peru's earliest easy peeler varieties have had colouring problems and peak exports will likely be running late as a result...Fruit Growers Consortium of Peru (CPF) commercial manager Marianela Rodríguez, who told Fresh Fruit Portal her company's first mandarin exports for 2016 took place this week with the cultivar Okitsu..."As far as problems with colour are concerned, the only thing they're causing now is a slight delay in having enough exportable volume," she said. "Put simply, the volume will accumulate toward the middle of the season as the fruit changes colour," she said..."It's only affecting the early varieties," she clarified...the executive forecasts exports will reach 400 containers, representing a 30% year-on-year rise...While the U.K. and Canada are CPF's main markets for Satsumas, Rodríguez says the company is always on the lookout for new trade opportunities. "For this season we're thinking our Satsumas will reach markets like Latin America, Russia and the U.S."...

[Freshfruitportal.com; 7 April 2017]

55% increase of Verna lemon production in Spain

... The total volume will grow from 193,680 tonnes in 2016 to an estimated 300,000 tonnes in 2017 (+55%). The main causes for this are the impact of the rains this winter and the entry into production of numerous new plantations. The Verna lemon harvest will kick off in late April and the Spanish lemon campaign will last until at least late July, with the possibility of it continuing until August. However, Spanish Verna lemons won't be alone in the European market this year. Both Argentina and South Africa have also increased their lemon production in 2017, and that will entail a greater supply and pressure on the European market, especially from June, when the campaigns in these two countries will be in full swing. The scenario that is expected in the coming months is a very competitive one, and obviously very different from the one we saw last year, which was exceptional, with a low harvest volume in Spain and very little lemon from the southern hemisphere...

[Freshplaza.com; 12 April 2017]

Aussies feel boost of Japan FTA

...Since the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (Jaepa) was signed, imports tariffs have been eliminated on more than 3,400 Australian products, according to Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade...between gaining access in 2014 and 2016...orange...exports were up almost 50 per cent...AFRICA

[AsiaFruit; 7 April 2017]

"Our farming practices are increasingly green."

The Western Cape citrus season starts later than other citrus producing regions, up to four weeks later than the northern citrus areas: down south the season opens now with soft citrus, while the first Star Ruby grapefruit are already being harvested in Tshipise, close to the Zimbabwean border. In the winter of 2016, Citrusdal's rainfall season was better than 2015 and therefore citrus producers are in a better position than last year. "There was good fruit set during August and September," says Piet Smit, marketing director for North America, the EU and the UK at Favourite Fresh Export in his office at the company's packing plant, Cedar Pack..."Historically Citrusdal was a navel producing area but over the past ten years we've seen a trend towards soft citrus. However, the new M7 early navel cultivar shows promise and our navel estimate is 7 or 8% up. Valencias are 18 to 20% up, and soft citrus a bit higher." He reports that last year's harvest was very clean and, at this point, it looks like this year could be the same...Smit, who has a background in entomology, continues: "Our farming practices are increasingly green. Chemical intervention is the last resort these days, not the rule. The amount of resources we devoted to fighting citrus black spot, about R1 billion [€71.67 million] yearly, shows how seriously the South African citrus industry regards export quality standards."

[Freshplaza.com; 12 April 2017]

70,000 hectares of citrus orchards affected by heat-wave in India

...The heat-wave has damaged the crops extensively, with premature fruit-drops increasing dramatically since the last week of March. Moreover, fruits on the trees have developed black spots. Initial estimates are that over 70,000 hectares of citrus orchards in Marathwada and Vidarbha have been affected. This is called psychological fruit-drop and about 30 per cent of the crop has been damaged in this manner...

[source: thehindubusinessline.com; 10 April 2017]

Florida may reimburse citrus growers millions for lost citrus trees

Florida may drop a long-running legal battle and instead agree to pay millions to homeowners across the state whose healthy citrus trees were torn down in a failed attempt to eradicate citrus canker...

[Freshplaza.com; 10 April 2017]