

Global Citrus Scan (2017_14)

John Edmonds (21 April 2017)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Chilean fields to yield more mandarins in 2017

...Chilean Citrus Committee president Juan Enrique Ortúzar told Fresh Fruit Portal an air of optimism pervaded the industry, due to a combination of a good crop and a Californian deal that could finish early...The most notable rise is expected in mandarins, with a forecast 25% jump from last year's shipments of 53,357 metric tons (MT), of which roughly 90% was destined for the U.S. market...he said lemons were in for a slight drop of 5% from last year's exports of 76,062MT. He said export levels would be fairly similar to last year's volumes for Navels and Clementines, which notched exports of 74,944MT and 43,000MT respectively...He said the sector was still waiting on a Chinese market opening for Chilean citrus fruit..."On the other hand something is being done with Mexico, but there is little progress, and with the United States we are awaiting the publication of a new entry rule to replace methyl bromide with a systems approach..."
[Freshfruitportal.com; 18 April 2017]

Valencia Citrus producers lose 30% of the harvest and 131 million Euro

...The significant loss of 131 million Euro is the result of two very negative facts: the loss of 1.2 billion kilos (no less than 30% of the harvest in the current season), due to successive disasters caused by drought and rainfall, and marketing problems...This season, exports have not only failed to grow...given the 23% increase in the production, but have actually fallen; by 1% up to January...5% in terms of value...The decline in value of the mandarins exported is still more pronounced and reaches 9%...there has been a huge amount of damaged fruit (1.2 billion kilos, especially first season mandarins), which has remained in the fields...citrus producers are asking the Public Administrations (Valencia, Madrid and Brussels) to adopt measures aimed at "promoting the competitiveness of Valencian citriculture..."
[fruitworldmedia.com; 14 April 2017]

Florida grapefruit volumes down

Florida orange production remained steady while grapefruit production declined, according to the latest forecast by the National Agricultural Statistics Service of the US Department of Agriculture...orange crop to stay at 67m boxes for the 2016/17 season, while the grapefruit crop was reduced by 800,000 boxes to 8.1m boxes.
[fruitnet.com/americafruit ; 12 April 2017]

Russia: South African citrus industry appeals to Putin to review fruit labeling rules

The Citrus Growers Association of Southern Africa (CGA) has issued a written appeal to Russian President Vladimir Putin to review a labelling system for fruit exports that has been implemented across the Eurasian Customs Union (EACU) since 2015...the organization's CEO Justin Chadwick told Fresh Fruit Portal the industry believes the EurAsian Conformity Mark (EAC) labeling rules are one of the reasons behind a decline in exports to the world's largest country..."What is required by Russia...is that every carton must have a label affixed to it, and on that carton there's a whole lot of information that needs to be put on the label...The way we operate in South Africa is we pack in pack houses...and in many cases the destination and receiver isn't known until it's in the port or in the warehouses of the port...So to put those labels on at that point...is just going to take too much labour and cost..." He said the industry has been asking for the Russian and other EAC authorities to accept the present barcodes on the pallets as sufficient ... "Exporters have made different arrangements...but the concern is that there's always a risk that what's accepted today might not be accepted tomorrow...We would prefer that we all do things according to the official requirements to take into consideration the way that we export our fruit..."
[Freshfruitportal.com; 20 April 2017]

AU: Late but average citrus season

Citrus growers in Australia's south are expecting an average harvest season, despite a later than normal start. Seven Fields Managing director, Richard Byllaardt, says harvesting will begin in early May...However, Mr Byllaardt says the fruit size will be smaller than previous years, in terms of millimetres...In Western Australia, it is expecting below average rainfall over the winter months, with a likelihood of warmer than average temperatures. Growers have reported a 2-3 week delay in colour break...
[Freshplaza.com; 18 April 2017]

China: Israeli oranges arrive in Shenzhen

On the evening of 10 April, a train with Israeli fresh oranges reached the harbour of Shenzhen. The batch of oranges weighed about 22.5 tons and has a value of around 27,000 USD. This is the first time that Israeli oranges have been imported into Shenzhen.
[Freshplaza.com; 18 April 2017]