

Global Citrus Scan (2017_16)

John Edmonds (5 May 2017)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

RSA reacts as US re-admits Argentine lemons

The re-entry of Argentine lemons into the US will change the dynamics of the international lemon trade, but it will take time to do so. This is the reaction of South African industry leaders following the confirmation of the US Department of Agriculture that a new rule to allow lemon imports from Argentina will take effect this month. This follows last week's trade talks between US President Donald Trump and Argentinian premier Mauricio Macri... "Longer-term, however, it could reduce pressure on the European and Eastern Europe markets, including Russia," says Hannes de Waal of SRCC, South Africa's biggest lemon producer. De Waal said it was hoped that the re-entry of Argentina after a 16-year import ban would also open the door for South Africa to introduce its lemons into this huge market. The new deal makes provision only for imports to the north-eastern US states, which is reportedly a measure designed to appease Californian growers who claim a resumption of imports puts their industry under threat... The international lemon trade, due to crop failures in some countries and rising demand in China, has been hot property for South African lemon growers in recent years. This has led to increasing investments in new lemon orchards, to the extent that some sources fear a steep increase in production without increased market development could cause problems in the future. The effects of a bumper Spanish crop is already being felt this year, with South Africans saying their window of opportunity in Europe will be reduced...

[Fruitnet.com/Eurofruit; 4 May 2017]

South Africa: U.S.-focused citrus group plans 2017 campaign

...The recent meeting brought together members from across the U.S. and Western Cape...SCSA grower Piet Smit gave a production update, confirming that crop has increased from 2016...Meeting attendees also included key players from the brand's four main importers – Seald Sweet, DNE, Capespan, and AMC. SCSA said the event resulted in collaborative planning and preparation amongst the entire supply chain to support the most successful summer crop season to-date...

[Freshfruitportal.com; 28 April 2017]

EU drops citrus canker requirement for U.S. imports

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and Acting U.S. Trade Representative Stephen Vaughn have announced that the European Union (EU) has dropped its requirement that U.S. citrus groves be surveyed for citrus canker...The new EU directive requires countries where citrus canker has been detected to have a disease management program and to ensure that exported fruit have no symptoms...As a result, grove surveys are no longer required, saving U.S. producers an estimated US\$5.6 million per year. "At USDA, everything we do is grounded in sound science, so it is good to see that the EU has seen that our disease management program protects our citrus products," Secretary Perdue said. "When we rely on science, it levels the playing field for everyone...Vaughn said the EU maintained "a number of unwarranted sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) barriers on U.S. agricultural exports", and the U.S. had long called "to base its SPS measures on science."

[www.freshfruitportal.com; 4 May 2017]

Australian mandarin growers warned not to pick early

Australian growers desperate to sell their imperial mandarins are picking them early as the start of the season has become a battleground for sustainable prices. However, the early picked fruit on the market is of low quality and is turning consumers away. Citrus Australia's manager of quality and market information Nathan Hancock said in the long run it worked against the industry as poor-quality fruit turned off some customers for the entire season...

[abc.net.au; 26 April 2017]

Limited availability of lemons due to California rains

Volumes on lemon supplies are proving limited. "Supplies of lemons are very short," says Hugo Barajas of Los Angeles, "The warm weather pushed the lemons in those districts to be harvested earlier in the season." At the same time, the California rains helped push the size of the lemons to larger size sooner than normal and that pushed the pressure on the smaller-sized fruit and subsequently, pushed an increase in prices...

[Freshplaza.com; 2 May 2017]

Chile's first 2017 shipment of citrus on its way to the US

Chile's first 2017 shipment of clementines to the U.S. departed from the port of Valparaiso during Week 15, a week earlier than the previous season. This serves as the official start of the Chilean Citrus season, which runs through October...While total citrus volume is expected to increase just three percent, from 247,363 tons in 2016 to 256,000 tons in 2017, a huge increase is once again anticipated for mandarins. On the heels of a 22% volume increase in 2016, the Chilean Citrus Committee foresees another double-digit increase for mandarins this season, jumping from 53,000 tons to 67,000, a 26% increase over 2016. Nearly 100% of all mandarins are destined for North America.

[Freshplaza.com; 27 April 2017]