

Global Citrus Scan (2017_24)

John Edmonds (30 June 2017)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Valencia season starts in northern South Africa

Citrus growers in Limpopo Province have embarked upon the 2017 Valencia season... Last year, Limpopo produced 59% of South Africa's Valencias. "The Turkey Valencia harvest resumed two weeks ago and will continue for another two weeks and it's still conforming to the positive outlook with good colour as a result of cold nights," says Cornel van der Merwe, marketing director of the Komati Group... "The drought definitely still has an effect, particularly on the seedless Delta which showed poor fruit set on some farms in the Onderberg area that experienced water stress, but we expect an average sized harvest with some tendency towards larger sizes," he continues. The company still has Star Ruby grapefruit, which fit nicely into the gap between Turkey Valencias and the large volumes of Midnights and Deltas which will be spread out during the next month, in order to give relief to the markets. The Valencia season runs until September. It is a popular fruit in China, Korea and Japan where it is prized for its colour, roundness and juicy taste. "Between 15 and 20% of the Valencias are sent to the Far East. Initially there was some concern around the Turkey's ability to withstand cold steri treatment, as it's a newer variety, but it has since appeared that the fruit on older trees is stronger and better able to handle cold treatment." Russia is a big market for South African Valencias, taking some 20% of the Valencias produced by the Komati Group. Should sizes be larger overall (due to lower fruit set of particularly the seedless Delta variety - thus smaller yields), this market could absorb those counts. The majority of the Valencias marketed by the Komati Group is still destined for UK and EU supermarket programmes, running to approximately half of its volumes...
[Freshplaza.com; 29 June 2017]

Orri clementines show promise for Chilean citrus growers

It has been a decade since the Israeli-developed late clementine variety branded Orri arrived in Chile but only now is the cultivar starting to gain traction... Fresh Fruit Portal caught up with Andrés Guillón, who represents nursery Tecnocitrus and Exportadora Grower Chile, and Israeli agronomist Shimon Zakai to find out more... The bulk of the world's Orri production is set to come from the Northern Hemisphere for some time yet. According to Zakai, there are 6,500 hectares of the variety planted in Israel (representing 30% of the industry), while in Spain because of legal battles estimates vary widely between 2,000-5,000 hectares. He says combined these two countries produce around 200,000MT of the fruit each year, while there is a further 1,500 hectares of Orri in Florida which has been relatively stagnant due to the state's problems with citrus greening disease, and the industry has "just started planting" in California... in South America the crop is progressing in a range of countries. "Firstly, remember that in South America all the plantations are younger. There are already 500 hectares planted in Argentina, there are signed contracts of 500 hectares in Uruguay, they have 400 hectares in Peru and signed contracts to take that up to 500. "In Chile at the end of the year there will be 300 hectares planted. Today we're opening a new stage of another 600 hectares... it will reach 1,000 in the future," he says, clarifying as part of that quota there will be a planting limit of 150 hectares per year in the near future. "The fact is that today the export from South America is to the paying northern markets – Europe and the U.S., and Japan and China will open."
[Freshfruitportal.com; 27 June 2017]

Mandarins lead Peru's citrus export charge.

Strong global demand for citrus is fuelling a boom in Peruvian mandarin exports. Data from Lima-based Peruvian Chamber of Commerce (CCL) show that shipments have almost doubled in five years, reaching US\$135m in 2016 compared with US\$77m 2012... Mandarins make up almost three-quarters (73 per cent) of Peru's citrus offer... Peru's mandarin acreage is growing at rate of around 1,000 ha a year, mainly along the central coast region and in Libertad and Ancash in the north and Nazca and Palpa in the south. Overall, Peruvian citrus exports are forecast to grow by 10 per cent to 140,500 tonnes according to the latest estimates from ProCitrus. This is an improvement on earlier estimates, which pointed to a 5 per cent increase in 2017. The US is the biggest market, taking around 35 per cent of the export total. It is followed by the UK (26 per cent), the Netherlands (15 per cent) and Canada (11 per cent). ProCitrus president Sergio Del Castillo said shipments to China are expected to rise this year. Exports to this market reached 60 containers – equivalent to 1,300 tonnes – in 2016. Global mandarin production oscillates between 28m and 30m tonnes a year. China is the biggest producer (24 per cent), followed by Brazil (14 per cent), the US (7 per cent), India (7 per cent) and Mexico (6 per cent). Peru is in eleventh place with 1 per cent of the total.
[fruitnet.com/americafruit; 29 June 2017]

US provides nice window of opportunity for South African citrus

Citrus coming in from South Africa is "looking excellent" and demand is good, especially since California has been a bit lighter this year, according to Andy Economou of TastyFrutti. "It's given us an opportunity, on the east coast at least, to market the product properly." South Africa has experienced some challenges with split in the oranges because of the weather, which has also affected sizing. Sizes of oranges are one size smaller this year, picking at 72, 64 and 88. Clementine's too: picking on sizes two, three and four. "They were 10 days earlier than last year," said Economou, adding that South Africa is strict about its imports regarding skin quality and brix. "They're doing a very good job..."
[Freshplaza.com; 27 June 2017]

