Global Citrus Scan (2017_27)

John Edmonds (24 July 2017)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

<u>Good Valencia season in the north of South Africa</u>

"The citrus season in the north is much as we hoped, with volumes up after the devastating hail in Hoedspruit," says Maarten Venter, marketing manager at Zest Fruit. "Quality is good, although fruit reached maturity a bit earlier than usual, so we expect to be finished about two weeks earlier on citrus from the north. Apart from lemons, most markets are stable, with supply and demand well-balanced on world markets." The grapefruit season in the north of the country is almost at an end, with about two weeks still to go in the Onderberg region on Star Ruby. Valencia varieties, including late Valencias, still have three months to go up in the north of the country. Fanie Meyer, Citrus Growers' Association representative for the Hoedspruit region, confirms that the season in Hoedspruit is progressing very well. "We're 90% finished with grapefruit, also almost done with Turkey Valencias, and currently packing Midknights. The pack-out looks good, the volumes look good, with YTD counts peaking at 72 and 64 which are easily marketable counts in all markets." Midknights in Hoedspruit are expected to run until end of week 31; it is a widely popular fruit in all markets. Late Valencias in this area will finish in about week 37. By end of September all Valencias originating in Hoedspruit should have been packed.
The Valencia picture in Limpopo Province (responsible for approximately 60% of South Africa's Valencias) looks brighter than it has been for the past two years, when drought and hail damage depressed volumes…"It looks like a massive rise in Valencias in South Africa but it's just that the Valencia volumes in Hoedspruit are back at normal levels after the hail of last year. Last year we had 3 million cartons but the latest estimate for our region is 5.9 million. The total for lemons, Valencias and grapefruit for our area is predicted to be up by about 5 million cartons," explains Fanie Meyer…
[Freshplaza.com; 19 July 2017]

<u>All Lemon confirms 2017 export fall</u>

All Lemon, the quality control seal for Argentine lemon exports, has published its latest crop forecast as the 2017 campaign draws to a close. With almost 75 per cent of the crop harvested, the association says output in Tucumán will be around 20-30 per cent down on 2016…Carlos Parravicini, vice president of the quality seal, said the fact that there was less fruit on the trees meant it was able to size up more quickly, allowing for an earlier than usual start to shipments. "Due to the shorter crop and early start, we don't have much fruit left at this stage. Most packers anticipate that the last exports will be in week 30 and since week 27 volumes have dropped off sharply and are averaging around 50 per cent of what they would be in a normal year," said Corneille. Recent rainfall and the arrival of cooler temperatures are also likely to affect shipments in the remaining weeks of the season, All Lemon said, adding that it would redouble its commitment to maintaining quality standards during this time…The quality seal also announced the continuation of its online promotional campaign, Think Lemon, highlighting the benefits of fresh lemons and its various applications not just as a food ingredient but also in beauty and health treatments.
[fruitnet.com/eurofruit; 18 July 2017]

<u>San Miguel buys Agricola Hoja Redonda</u>

The Argentinian company, San Miguel, has paid $64 million for Peru's largest mandarin exporter, Agricola Hoja Redonda. With this acquisition, San Miguel will expand its business by 28 000 tonnes of citrus, avocados and grapes. It will also get better access to the American West Coast and Asian markets…Besides Argentina and Peru, the company trades out of Uruguay and South Africa. Last year it took over two citrus farms in South Africa. The total area now owned by San Miguel in that country is over 1,000 hectare…
[Freshplaza.com; 18 July 2017]

<u>Window for Turkish lemons in doubt</u>

Turkish exporters face an anxious wait to discover what the lemon campaign will hold this autumn following a harsh winter across the country. The season usually begins in mid-September with the early Interdonato crop, but citrus-growing regions in Turkey have experienced winter temperatures of -8oC and -9oC, leading to a marked decline in production. "Unfortunately, it looks like the early Interdonato crop will be down by around 70 per cent," said Ayşe Özler of Özler Ziraat... Interdonato may account for just 20 per cent of Turkey's total lemon crop, but since it is the earliest variety available from the Northern Hemisphere, it has added significance. "The majority of Turkish lemons come later, between December and April, but with the Interdonato, Turkey is able to fill the gap between the Southern Hemisphere crop and US production," said Özler. "It is therefore very big everywhere, in Europe, the Middle East and Asia. In East Asia, we send to Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia and, more recently, Indonesia, which has become a huge buyer of Turkish lemons." However, concerns surround the likely price of a short Interdonato crop. "There will be very few fruits available, and big sizes too, with a lack of smaller ones," said Özler. "The prices demanded by the growers will therefore be higher, which is a worry for exporters."… "Despite the elevated prices, demand for Interdonato lemons has been good in all our markets, in Europe, the Middle East and East Asia," said Özler. "This is because the supply from the Southern Hemisphere was short. This season, we will have to wait and see what volumes are still coming in."
[fruitnet.com/eurofruit; 11 July 2017]