

Global Citrus Scan (2017_29)

John Edmonds (7 August 2017)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Grapefruit consumption hits a low in Japan, while bananas remain the leading fruit

Japan's average household consumption of fresh fruit has averaged the lowest or second lowest for each month in 2017 since records began being kept 13 years ago, according to data from Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications Statistics Bureau. The average expenditure on fruit, however, has remained relatively stable in the first six months of the year, with the monthly purchasing price of fruit recorded as the second or third highest for each month...Grapefruit consumption continued to fall, with expenditure reaching the lowest recorded for June at ¥41 (US\$0.37), and consumption reaching a low of 100g, while the purchasing price reach a record high of ¥400 (US\$3.62) per kg....

[fruitnet.com/asiafruit; 4 August 2017]

Gold standard for mandarins

South Africa is on target for a bigger soft citrus export crop this campaign, with exciting prospects in particular in the late mandarin category. Branded variety ClemenGold is expected to lead the way, enjoying a production expansion both in the Cape's southern regions and in the area around Marble Hall in the north...The latest development is production being extended to Moosrivier, farm of the well-known Schoeman family near Marble Hall...Meanwhile the 'new kid on the block', Tango, is also expected to make waves this season. While the majority of supply in 2016 was from the Kirkwood area in the Eastern Cape, 2017 brings the first production from Limpopo Province as well as the Western Cape...Tango's Plant Breeders Rights were granted in South Africa in March 2016, which means that the registrar of varieties in South Africa has confirmed that Tango is not a replicant variety of something else and is registered as an individual variety in its own right. However, the challenge between the variety owners of Tango and Nadorcott is still ongoing... "There has been further investments in planting taking the total hectares planted in South Africa to approximately 1,400 hectares, with more plantings planned for later this year," says AMC's Pieter de Jongh. "A total of 3,000ha have been licensed in South Africa to date, which will all be planted by 2020/2021." AMC says there is indeed a steep rise in late mandarin production... "To date the offer of high-quality late mandarins has been very limited to consumers if considered over a 12-month period. That will change in the near future as global production of late mandarin varieties is growing," De Jongh explains.

[fruitnet.com/fpj. 28 July 2017]

Argentina officials make HLB find in urban yard

The citrus disease huanglongbing, also known as HLB and citrus greening, has been found on an orange jessamine plant in an urban area in Argentina, plant health officials reported. The find was discovered by the Argentina's SENASA, the National Health Service and Food Quality, on an orange jessamine plant in the city of La Banda in Santiago del Estero, according to a news release. The plant was destroyed. The infected plant was not far from the lemon-exporting province of Tucumán, but so far Argentina's commercial citrus regions have not yielded any HLB finds.

[thepacker.com; 2 August 2017]

HLB found in another California residential area

California citrus industry leaders remain focused on keeping huanglongbing disease out of commercial citrus groves after the first case of the dreaded disease was found in a Riverside County backyard. A grapefruit tree in a residential area was identified as possibly infected July 10, according to an account in The Press Enterprise, with a confirmation on July 25... "It's extremely disappointing, it is very close to the University of California-Riverside, which is the birthplace of California citrus, where a lot of citrus research is conducted," said Joel Nelsen, president of Exeter-based California Citrus Mutual...Nelsen said all of the finds of HLB in California have been in backyard citrus trees. "It is a bit perplexing for us inasmuch as we have not found that many, as we call them, hot or infected (Asian citrus) psyllids," Nelsen said...Industry and government funds totalling more than \$25 million per year are devoted to seek out the pest and disease, including \$15 to \$18 million from industry assessments of 9 cents per carton.

[thepacker.com; 28 July 2017]