

Global Citrus Scan (2017_34)

John Edmonds (8 September 2017)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

South Africa's systems approach to EU's new FCM regulations

The South African citrus industry has been preparing a systems approach to manage false codling moth for the past four years, in expectation of what has indeed come to pass: from 1 January 2018 false codling moth will be a regulated pest in the EU. Dr Sean Moore of Citrus Research International presented information on the systems approach to delegates at a workshop on FCM and other citrus pests, near Groblersdal in the Senwes region, as part of a nationwide CRI roadshow on FCM. "We can scientifically prove that the system we have developed will mitigate the phytosanitary risk and this approach is in line with the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures of the FAO's International Plant Protection Convention. It has been developed in conjunction with all stakeholders within the citrus industry. Apart from lemons, which are exempt from the regulation as a non-host for FCM, there will be no other way of exporting to the EU." Three exporting options have been developed for citrus to the EU. The default option, option C, includes four requirements: i) registration of each orchard, ii) orchard sanitation, iii) pheromone trap monitoring and iv) PPECB pallet inspection. The other two options (A & B) have additional requirements back on the farm and in the pack house... Practical implementation of the systems approach will need to start in November and by the end of November all orchards meant for EU export have to be registered with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF).

[www.freshplaza.com; 7 September 2017]

South African Valencia estimate adjusted upwards

... Letsitele, the largest Valencia region in South Africa, is still busy with approximately 3 million cartons still to be packed. "We're continuing for longer than we initially thought. We expected to be finished by week 37, but we'll probably continue packing until the end of the month," says Jan-Louis Pretorius of Groep 91 Uitvoer and area representative for Letsitele on the CGA's Valencia focus group. In the southern production areas, Valencia volumes are depressed, primarily due to drought and an episode of exceptionally strong, hot winds in June which caused fruit drop of Valencias. In the Sundays River Valley, where the Valencia season is basically done, the season's initial estimate of 6.5 million ends on 4.7 million cartons. Valencia volumes are well up from last year's 42 million cartons, but still not on par with the 52.7 million cartons produced during the 2014/15 season as the effect of the drought lingers... The seedless Valencia cultivars like Midknights and Deltas from the northern regions this season obtained good size counts – counts 48 to 64 – which has offered a fair substitution alternative to make up for the shortfall in navel volumes. There has also been an increase in requests from the EU and China for citrus for processing purposes... "We're somewhat nervous about the new false codling moth regulations which will be implemented in 2018," says Jan-Louis Pretorius. "But it was the same with CBS and as an industry we have successfully adapted to the new regulations... I have no doubt that we'll develop the capacity, both administratively and systematically, to implement it." "The FCM regulations may have a negative volume effect on the European market. It might create a dividing line between larger producer-exporters with the capacity to implement the new FCM regulations and smaller, more risk-averse players who might decide to focus on other markets."

[www.freshplaza.com; 6 September 2017]

Spanish scientists turn citrus into plastic

Researchers from the Catalan Institute of Chemical Research (ICIQ) have devised a way of producing plastics from citrus peel that could replace controversial chemical Bisphenol A, which has been found by several studies to be harmful to health. Limonene is a colourless liquid hydrocarbon that is extracted from the oil found in citrus peel. Professor Arjan Kleij, who led the project, told Spanish daily La Vanguardia that the team was looking for a safer, more sustainable alternative to Bisphenol, which has been banned in a number of countries for its carcinogenic and hormone disrupting effects... The new citrus polycarbonate also has better thermal properties than the present alternatives which means the plastics manufactured from it has a higher decomposition temperature that makes it safer for daily use. And because it is made with natural compounds it is fully biodegradable... The team is now study more of the polymer's properties – such as mechanics and resistance – in an attempt to find wider uses for it.

[fruitnet.com/fpj; 4 September 2017]

Start of Spanish citrus campaign with more expensive Satsuma mandarins

The citrus season is starting in the Region of Valencia with the harvest of the first mandarins of the Satsuma variety this week, mainly in the province of Valencia... Due to the negative influence of the June and July heatwaves, yields are lower than last year for Satsuma mandarins, as are for many other varieties of mandarin, clementine and orange in the overall estimate for the 2017-2018 season... In recent years, many companies have been switching from Satsuma mandarins to other, earlier varieties with more colour... The growing range and supply of mandarins from the southern hemisphere, from countries such as Argentina, South Africa, Peru or Chile, is increasingly taking a toll on the demand, with the consequent reduction in market shares... There are now fewer markets that demand this type of mandarin, and Germany has, for example, reduced imports of Satsuma mandarins. The main destinations are the Scandinavian countries and the U.K....

[www.freshplaza.com; 7 September 2017]