

Global Citrus Scan (2017_38)

John Edmonds (7 October 2017)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

More Finos but fewer Vernas for Spain

Spain's Fino lemon production is expected to increase by 12 per cent this season to 907,000 tonnes according to the latest crop estimate released by Ailimpo. However, Verna output is projected to fall sharply due to high temperatures that affected flowering in May and June. Initial estimates indicate that the Verna shortfall could be as much as 40 per cent, giving a harvest of 208,000 tonnes. But Ailimpo said significant flowering in September in late-blossoming crops suggested that the final figure could be higher. The total 2017/18 lemon harvest is projected to reach 1.115m tonnes, a decrease of 3.7 per cent on last season...

[www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit; 29 September 2017]

Oranges top Spanish consumption table

Spanish consumers bought 860,000 tonnes of oranges in 2016, making them the most popular fruit in Spain. Although consumption fell by 6 per cent last year, they were still well ahead of the second ranked fruit, bananas, which at 533,000 tonnes registered a 5.7 per cent increase in consumption. Apples were in third place with 477,000 tonnes, a 5 per cent fall on the previous year. "Overall, the market is fairly stable with fluctuations between one product and another. If the consumption of one fruit goes up, another goes down," said Pere Prats, vice president of the Mercabarna Fruit and Vegetables Wholesalers' Guild.

[www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit; 28 September 2017]

Florida citrus aid bill "can't wait"

After Hurricane Irma wiped out as much as 70 per cent of Florida's orange crop, US Rep. Vern Buchanan called for immediate action in Congress to help struggling citrus farmers recover...According to Michael Sparks, executive director of Florida Citrus Mutual, Hurricane Irma had a catastrophic effect on Florida citrus. Sparks estimated that nearly every grove in the state has been damaged to some degree by the storm...Experts estimate a 50 to 70 per cent crop loss in south Florida from Hurricane Irma, while Florida growers are seeing up to 90 per cent losses in some areas...

[www.fruitnet.com/americafruit; 27 September 2017]

Hopes for South African citrus in Vietnam

South African citrus growers have been frustrated for some time because they cannot get re-entry into the Vietnamese market. Although this frustration may not end soon, there is some hope that the Vietnamese market could be open for them again before the 2018 season. "Vietnamese importers are at pains to explain the importance of South Africa regaining citrus access to the country," said Justin Chadwick, CEO of the Citrus Growers Association of South Africa, following a visit to Vietnam after the recent Asia Fruit Logistica. "...we remain hopeful that this may be possible before the 2018 season"...With a population heading for 100m, impressive economic growth and a preference for fresh fruit and vegetables, Vietnam is an attractive market for counter-seasonal fruit. "Vietnam is one of four Asian nations which recorded between 5-10 per cent growth in GDP in 2016; the others being Bangladesh, China and India."

[www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit; 27 September 2017]

US: Final vessels from South Africa conclude successful summer citrus season

Summer Citrus from South Africa (SCSA) is finishing the season strongly with the two final scheduled vessels set to arrive with Navels and Easy Peelers as well as the first shipment of the popular Midnight variety into the United States. The last conventional vessel will arrive to the Port of Philadelphia the week of Oct. 9. With sophisticated logistics services and consolidated resources, SCSA has been able to maintain a steady movement of fruit throughout the season..."2017 has been another exciting growth year for the summer citrus category and we've been pleased that our group has been able to increase our support of US retail partners," Conradie added. "We've enjoyed the 17th season and hope to replicate that for years to come!"

[www.freshplaza.com; 4 October 2017]