

Global Citrus Scan (2017_44)

John Edmonds (17 November 2017)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

South Africa: New fungicide launched to combat citrus black spot

South Africa's River Bioscience has launched a new product which offers growers a key alternative to be included in their citrus black spot (CBS) spray programs to reduce the chance of resistance occurring. The company, which is owned by the Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa (CGA), has developed a contact fungicide called RB1, which is described as being unique for having active ingredient dipotassium phosphate...European regulations require 100% control of CBS on export fruit to the EU, and CGA CEO Justin Chadwick said commercially acceptable levels of control can only be achieved through the use of plant protection products..."RB1™ is yet another demonstration of the CGA group benefitting its growers by conceptualising new possibilities in the research arm, CRI, and River Bioscience (Pty) Ltd following through with successful commercialisation of this promising innovation to benefit the citrus industry as a whole," Chadwick said...

[www.freshfruitportal.com; 13 November 2017]

Investing in Florida's citrus future

Florida governor Rick Scott unveiled a proposed US\$87.4bn 2018 state budget this week, nicknamed the 'Securing Florida's Future' budget, which included a potential lifeline for Florida's ailing citrus industry. Scott's budget proposes US\$22m for the Florida Citrus industry, including US\$5m supporting Florida Department of Citrus (FDOC) marketing programmes aimed at educating and increasing awareness among consumers of the health benefits of Florida Citrus and Florida Orange Juice as well as US\$650,000 for new variety research ensuring Americans have access to the citrus they love long into the future...

[fruitnet.com/fpj; 15 November 2017]

Spain: Senate discussing motion for promotion of citrus consumption

In the next plenary session, the Senate will debate a motion presented by Compromís that urges the promotion of citrus consumption, "not just because of its benefits, but also due to the need to help a sector that is currently in a difficult position as a result of the import of oranges from third countries." The initiative of the coalition recalled that orange groves are predominantly part of the landscape in Valencia, although other areas, such as Catalonia, Murcia and Andalusia, also grow the fruit," reported Compromís in its statement. The proposal calls for the creation of a "distinctive identity" for Spanish citrus fruits, as well as for collaboration with regional governments and the sector to organise promotional campaigns and boost its consumption in restaurants and cafeterias in public buildings. It also urges the European authorities to tighten sanitary controls to prevent the spread of health issues, so that the arrival of fruit from third countries does not have a negative impact on the local production...

[www.freshplaza.com; 16 November 2017]

Argentinian citrus exports to Ukraine reduced by half

Since the beginning of the 2017/18 campaign, Argentina has noticeably reduced its presence in the Ukrainian citrus market, reports APK-Inform: Vegetables and Fruits. According to Ukrainian customs statistics, in September 2017, Argentina shipped only 1.2 thousand tonnes of these fruits to the Ukrainian market, which is about half the volume exported in the same month a year earlier. Analysts blame this to the decline in citrus production in Argentina due to unfavourable weather conditions, as well as to a general reduction in the product's imports into Ukraine. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that Argentina managed to retain the second place in the ranking of Ukraine's largest citrus suppliers, as the country accounted for about 22% of all imports in September. It is followed by Turkey with a share of 16%. The leading supplier is South Africa, which since the beginning of the current season has accounted for about 51% of all citrus imported into Ukraine. It is worth noting that in the first month of the 2017/18 season, Ukraine imported much less citrus than in September of the previous year, with lemon shipments recording the most significant drop.

[fruit-inform.com; 15 November 2017]

South Australian citrus industry granted pest free status by China

...South Australia is the only mainland Australian state that is free of fruit flies. The Chinese recognition follows on from Indonesian recognition of the Riverland as a Pest Free Area in December 2016 and China's recognition of the Riverland in May last year for the export of nectarines. Other export markets recognising the Riverland Pest Free Area include the United States, Thailand, Japan and New Zealand. The changes came at a time when Australian citrus exports to China were increasing and set to reach a record of 85,000 tonnes in 2017.

[dynamicexport.com.au; 14 November 2017]