Global Citrus Scan (2017_46)

John Edmonds (1 December 2017)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Moroccan citrus exports to decline by up to a fifth in 2017-18

Excessively hot weather in Morocco is expected to result in a steep year-on-year drop in volumes produced in the North African country, local media have reported. The major citrus exporter is estimated to see a decline of around 15-20% from 2.3 million metric tons (MT) last year to around 2 million MT, publication Agri Maroc reported, quoted figures from the country's Citrus Growers Association. For around four months temperatures in Morocco are reported to have been unusually high, creating drought conditions and reducing the fruit sizing…Morocco's citrus season typically runs from October until around midway way through the next year. According to a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) report published in December 2016, Morocco's citrus production during the previous season has risen by 15%, and so this season's decline should bring volume on par with the 2015-16 campaign.
In the report, the USDA had estimated orange production for the 2016-17 season would increase 4% year-on-year to 962,250MT while tangerine/mandarin production would increase 24% to 1.3 million MT. …
[www.freshfruitportal.com; 27 November 2017]

Spain: Navelina prices, higher at origin than at destination

Navelina orange prices have been affected by the changes in the weather recorded in recent months. Thus, there has been an atypical campaign, which actually started a month earlier than usual.
Also, the lack of rainfall has taken a toll on the calibres. "We have the same volume as in previous years; we are able to supply the same number of customers and offer the same kilos; however, there are no large calibres," explains Virginia Domínguez. "The customers at destination don't want to pay high prices. There is a lot of supply, but the market is not paying those prices at destination." …Another issue to be taken into account is the existence of oranges from other origins in the market. "Egyptian oranges have a lower price, since the workforce is also cheaper, so they can offer more competitive prices. Morocco also wants to find a place for its goods and you almost have to fight if you want to load and ship to markets such as Paris or Perpignan," says Domínguez.
[www.freshplaza.com; 1 December 2017]

Spanish lemons clearly dominate European market

The month of November has been developing without changes, but with the market preparing for the usual reactivation of the pre-Christmas period. In this context, Spanish lemons have a clearly dominating position in Europe, as the supply from Turkey has been very limited this campaign. For the time being, the operations at origin are limited. Prices remain stable (0.32-0.40 €/kg. Average: 0.36 €/kg) and the profitability for the producer has also consolidated, with good prices paid also for the fruit intended for export…The second part of the Fino campaign starts in December and growers are showing caution, adjusting the pace of harvesting to the pace of sales, with the great advantage that the fruit can be left on the tree for a long time without issues. The situation for grapefruit is marked by different realities. On the one hand, the weather motivates consumption; on the other hand, there are overlaps in the supply, with batches that arrive from Mexico and clash with the supply of Mediterranean grapefruit, making it difficult to sell the Mexican product. In Turkey, there is a predominance of small sizes, and Florida, with a very small volume and record prices, plays in a totally different market segment.

U.S.: APHIS expands HLB quarantine areas in California

U.S. authorities are expanding the area quarantined for citrus greening disease in California after the disease was detected in numerous locations. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), in cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the California citrus industry, is expanding the quarantine zone in Los Angeles and Orange Counties and adding a quarantine area in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.
"APHIS is taking this action because of the positive detections of citrus greening in plant tissue samples collected in multiple locations," it said. "APHIS is applying safeguarding measures on the interstate movement of regulated articles from the regulated areas in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. "These measures parallel the intrastate quarantine that the CDFA initiated on September 8. This action is necessary to prevent the spread of citrus greening to non-infested areas of the United States."
[www.freshfruitportal.com; 29 November 2017]