

Global Citrus Scan (2018_2)

John Edmonds (26 January 2018)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Argentina: Tucuman's lemon production will increase by up to 8%

The production of fresh lemons during 2017 amounted to 1.4 million tons, a level below the market expectation. "We should be producing 1.65 million tons. The decrease in production didn't allow us to have enough fresh product to export," stated Jose "Yayo" Carbonell, the President of the Argentine Federation of Citrus (Federacitrus), who also stated that they expected production would grow by 7% to 8% in 2018. Carbonell also stated that exports would grow, and that one of the opening of markets, such as the United States, Mexico, Brazil, Vietnam, or Indonesia, was one of the best steps taken by the Government in its management for the industry. "The export will grow but it is difficult to calculate how much. We have to win the markets," he added. Tucumán, for example, will send 20,000 tons of lemons this year to the United States...In any case, in the sector they are alarmed by the problems of fruit growing in general - issues such as high tax pressure, logistical costs and lack of access to credit...

[www.freshplaza.com; 24 January 2018]

University of Florida/IFAS researchers awarded US\$10.5m to work on citrus greening resistance or tolerance

Three University of Florida (UF) scientists will use US\$10.52m in federal grants to study ways to help beleaguered citrus growers cope with citrus greening disease, including research on genetic editing that may produce potentially resistant fruit and trees. Since greening – or huanglongbing (HLB) -- was first reported in Florida in 2005, Florida's citrus production has shrunk by more than 50 per cent, according to UF/IFAS research. The money comes from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, a division of the US Department of Agriculture...Nian Wang, a UF/IFAS associate professor of microbiology and cell science who's based at CREC, will use US\$3.6m to generate non-transgenic, greening-resistant citrus varieties by editing genes that make citrus susceptible to the greening pathogen...Zhonglin Mou, a UF/IFAS associate professor of microbiology and cell science in Gainesville, will use US\$2.95m to develop greening-resistant or tolerant citrus trees by targeting negative regulators of the citrus immune system....Arnold Schumann, a UF/IFAS professor of soil and water sciences, received US\$3.5m to further his research on a screening system that protects citrus from the Asian citrus psyllid, the tiny bug that transmits greening to citrus trees...

[www.fruitnet.com Americafruit; 18 January 2018]

New promising seedless mandarin released in Spain

Using the same technique that created the Tango, a Spanish group has transformed the Nova mandarin into a new club variety. Spain's Citrus Nursery Association (AVASA) technical director Francisco Llätser yesterday announced the release of the "Mandanova", a cultivar created through the irradiation of Nova budwood. The method causes a mutation in the fruit making it seedless; a trait that can be achieved through natural breeding but often with the disclaimer that no other citrus trees with the potential to pollinate can be nearby...The Mandanova, presented to growers at the Valencian Farmers Association headquarters, rules out the need for any of these conditions in order to achieve 'seedlessness'...

[www.freshfruitportal.com; 26 January 2018]

French still want Florida grapefruit regardless of high prices

Florida used to produce 54 million cartons of 18 kilograms of grapefruit. After the hurricanes of 2004 the production went down to 14 million cartons. The industry was able to climb back to 20-22 million, but this year, due to hurricane Irma, production went down to 5 million. Bruno Edery of Beva Fruits International says, "The whole paradox of this is that, regardless of the decrease in volumes, which means increase in pricing, the French market is still requesting Florida." The French market is the second largest market for Florida Grapefruit after Japan... "...Only one or two out of nine chain stores have abandoned Florida, despite the fact it costs about three times more than varieties from other countries. The prices vary from 24 up to 34 euros, while Turkish grapefruit costs 9-10 euro. In this product line consumers only want quality. Many growers in the world who produce other grapefruit, like Israel or Mexico, will tell you they can never compete with Florida."

[www.freshplaza.com; 24 January 2018]

China: Citrus prices to trend upwards in 2018

2018 looks like a very promising year for Chinese oranges. The problems with citrus greening disease have finally been resolved and the climate conditions have been suitable. It is expected that in the season of 2017-2018, there will be more than 7.300.000 tons of oranges on the market, which is 4% more than in the previous season. Orange plantations in Western China have produced sufficient volumes to fully supply the entire Chinese market. In spite of the increase in domestic production, imports of oranges are still expected to rise. There is a strong demand among Chinese consumers for high-quality oranges all year-round...

[www.freshplaza.com; 24 January 2018]