Global Citrus Scan (2018_7)

John Edmonds (2 March 2018)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Peru was leading soft citrus exporter in the Americas in 2017

Peru beat the U.S., Chile and Argentina to become the leading soft citrus exporter in the Americas last year, according to the country's Foreign Trade Ministry. The Andean country exported 143,000 metric tons (MT) of mandarins, clementines and tangelos, valued at a total of US$176 million – a 30% year-on-year rise. The main destinations were the U.S., Canada, and the Netherlands, while there were significant boosts for China, which rose six-fold. The ministry also highlighted shipments to Russia nearly tripled. The increase was attributed to improved conditions in the Russian economy and the stabilizing of the Russian rouble. More than 90% of export mandarins and clementines are grown in Ica and Lima, but there is strong growth coming from the regions of La Libertad and Arequipa. In 2016 these regions provided 2% of citrus exports, but last year that figure rose to 6.5%.In just five years, Peru's mandarin exports have doubled from 53,000MT to 118,000MT, with the value more than doubling from US$67 million to US$157 million."

[www.freshfruitportal.com; 27 February 2018]

Spain: Over 2.2 million tonnes of citrus left to be harvested

The Citrus Management Committee (CGC), the association that brings private citrus exporters together in Spain, has lamented the confusion generated in the markets by the "unilateral and non-consensual" assessments reported by the new president of Citrícola Española (Intercitrus), Rafael Cervera. In an interview granted to the agency Efeagro and published on 26 February, Cervera had given an assessment on the situation of the campaign and predicted that it "would not last until April" because, he said, "there are only 550,000 tonnes left to be harvested." However, the technical services of this organization believe that, based on the most conservative estimations, the country still has at least 2.2 million tonnes left to be harvested and marketed. With these figures, the CGC says that despite the expected fall in the domestic production, the supply "of mandarins and oranges, both to the EU and to certain third markets, should be normal until the end of the citrus campaign. And the season, "just like every year," should last until well into the month of July or even August. According to the analysis carried out by the association of exporters, at least 1,047,000 tonnes of citrus fruits should still be exported in what remains of the 2017/2018 campaign. Of this amount, 604,000 tonnes would correspond to oranges and 140,000 tonnes to late mandarins (Nadorcott, Tango, Orri, Ortanique, etc.). But to these quantities it would be necessary to add the production intended for the domestic market, which based on the official records of the last five campaigns, is estimated to be no lower than 706,000 tonnes during the period at hand (March-August). In order to reach the estimated 2.2 million tonnes globally, it would also be necessary to take into account the volume that will be acquired by the juice processing industry, which has been estimated at no less than 420,000 tonnes (362,000 tonnes of oranges and 58,000 tonnes of lemons).

[www.freshplaza.com; 3 March 2018]

Court ruling: US farmers unable to keep Argentine citrus at bay

In 1947, the United States banned Argentine lemons, due to plant pests and diseases there…But in May of 2017, this decision was reversed by the Trump administration. The U.S. Citrus Science Council and five growers sued the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Secretary Sonny Perdue this past May, claiming they ignored science and made a politically motivated decision to lift the ban on Argentine citrus…However, courthousenews.com reports that last Tuesday U.S. District Judge Lawrence O'Neill ruled that the U.S. government wasn't purely motivated by foreign policy concerns when it lifted a ban on lemon imports from Argentina, finding for the U.S. government.

[www.freshplaza.com; 3 March 2018]

Fresh Citrus Shipments Continue to Drop; CAC Elections Coming

Fresh citrus shipments from Florida so far in the 2017–18 citrus season have fallen 37 percent below the previous season, reports Citrus Administrative Committee (CAC) Manager Duke Chadwell. "And that percentage has held true from the beginning of the season up until now," he says. "However, I do anticipate as we move forward that that percentage is going to grow. And I would think that by the end of the season, our fresh fruit shipments will be down in excess of 40 percent for the season when we close the books in May…Our biggest reduction (by percent), and this has happened over the last two or three seasons, is in specialty varieties — tangerines and tangelos," Chadwell reports. "They're down 60 percent from last season, followed by grapefruit, down approximately 50 percent. Oranges have held pretty steady."

[citrusindustry.net; 27 March 2018]