

Global Citrus Scan (2018_14)

John Edmonds (12 April 2018)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

U.S.: Limoneira expands into Argentina.

The California-based grower-distributor is capitalizing on U.S. market access for Argentine lemons through a cooperative agreement with some of the country's leading players. Building on its international operations in Chile and South Africa, U.S.-headquartered Limoneira Company (NASDAQ:LMNR) has made a bold move to gain a foothold in the Southern Hemisphere's top lemon-exporting nation. Today the company announced the formation of Grupo Argentino, a cooperative arrangement between Limoneira and three Argentine companies – F.G.F. Trapani S.A., Padilla Citrus S.A. and EarlyCrop S.A. Grupo Argentino will complement U.S. supplies of lemons during the Northern hemisphere's summer months with consistent supply from Argentina. "Our One World of Citrus Model™ is reaping dividends for us, and Grupo Argentino is just the latest piece to the puzzle," said Limoneira chief operating officer Alex Teague...

[www.freshfruitportal.com; 10 April 2018]

Gamtoos navels: no splitting and "fantastic" internal quality

The Satsuma harvest is running at full tilt in the Patensie area of the Eastern Cape but is expected to slow down after next week. Over the next five or six weeks, navels, Novas and clementines will follow, with lemons harvested throughout.

"We have been really very pleasantly surprised at the sizing on Satsumas, especially compared to last year," says Snyman Kritzinger, managing director of Grown4U in Kirkwood, Eastern Cape. "Last year around 80% of the fruit was calibre 3 and smaller, this year 80% or more is calibre 3 and larger. We're not exactly sure why – it's been a drier year than last year, and yet our Satsumas are about twice as big." They're equally pleased to note that there's almost none of the splitting of last year evident on navels, probably because during the period of navel flowering and fruit set they didn't experience the excessive heat and low relative humidity of the season before. Navels have started colouring, harvesting should start by weeks 19 and 20... Despite the drought in the Gamtoos Valley (the Kouga Dam is 10.6% full), climatologically it appears to have been a more favourable season for fruit development. There has been some rain in the area during the past week. The Sundays River Valley, to the east of the Gamtoos, depends on the Gariep Dam, which is brim-full, more than 100% capacity... Citrus producers are very concerned at the state of the UK Satsuma market at the moment. "It's ironic," he notes. "The UK used to be the most stable market for Satsumas but for the past two years it hasn't been a competitive market. There is a lot of competition amongst the discounters."

[freshplaza.com; 11 April 2018]

Florida: Breakthrough cure for Citrus Greening unlikely

Earlier this week the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine said a single breakthrough discovery for managing citrus greening in the future is unlikely... The report states that there are still significant barriers to finding a solution: "Among them the inability to culture the bacteria in the laboratory, the lack of advanced diagnostics for early disease detection, and the absence of standardized research methodology that would improve the comparability of results across studies." Citrus greening is spread by a tiny invasive bug called the Asian Citrus Psyllid, which carries bacteria that are left behind when it feeds on a citrus tree's leaves. Journaltimes.com quoted spokesman for Florida Citrus Mutual, Andrew Meadows, as saying that before Hurricane Irma in 2017, citrus growers accepted that they had diseased crops, and were still expecting a rebound year. But the hurricane devastated the crop, causing more than \$760 million in damages... The psyllid isn't native to Florida but is believed to have arrived from someone who perhaps unknowingly brought a slip of a tree from Asia. The bug was first spotted in the state in 1998, and some think it then spread during hurricanes and storms. Greening was first spotted in 2005. There isn't a cure, and no country has ever successfully eradicated it.

[freshplaza.com; 11 April 2018]

U.S. relaxes Chilean lemon import rules

U.S. authorities have announced they are relaxing regulations for imports of fresh Chilean lemons, allowing them to be shipped under a systems approach. The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) said that currently the fruit can only be imported once it has an approved methyl bromide treatment to eliminate the pest risk. In this case, the systems approach requires registration of production sites, a citrus wash-and-rinse protocol to remove the mite, and inspection in Chile to ensure all mites have been removed... The new rule will become effective on May 7...

[www.freshfruitportal.com; 5 April 2018]

Spain: Legal action against illegal marketing of Orri mandarins

The Enforcement Organization S.L. (TEO), exclusive master licensee of the Orri variety in Spain and Portugal, has started a total of 92 legal actions against the illegal exploitation of Orri mandarins, which could affect about 172 hectares; more than 80,000 trees. 85. 23% of these cases correspond to the Region of Valencia (some 45,000 trees)...

[freshplaza.com; 9 April 2018]