

Global Citrus Scan (2018_15)

John Edmonds (20 April 2018)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Citrus canker detected in Australia

A retail nursery in the Northern Territory has reported a case of citrus canker on one of its potted lime varieties. The patio plant has been removed from sale and all affected retail nursery stock has been held in quarantine to be disposed of safely. The plant variety is luckily not found in commercial production. "We hope that this early detection and related activity to contain the disease through controlled movement of citrus plant material will give us the best chance of eradicating the disease," said Citrus Australia CEO, Nathan Hancock... "Citrus canker has previously been found in Australia and was successfully eradicated," said Hancock. Citrus canker devastated the Florida citrus industry when it swept through in 1910, 1986, and again in 1995 when it was declared unfeasible for eradication by the United States Department of Agriculture.

[fruitnet.com/asiafruit; 19 April 2018]

Camposol buys Uruguayan mandarin plantations

Peruvian produce giant Camposol is continuing its international expansion through the acquisition of 1,000 hectares for citrus crops in Uruguay. It has bought 500 hectares of mandarin plantations that belonged to Citrícola Salteña S.A. and another 500 hectares which will be developed... Camposol said this operation, along with the more than 500 hectares of mandarins planted in Peru, will allow it to offer mandarins to clients throughout the Southern Hemisphere's entire commercial window...

[www.freshfruitportal.com; 12 April 2018]

Argentine president hails first lemon shipment to U.S. in 17 years

Argentine President Mauricio Macri took part in an elated ceremony this week as the country's citrus sector dispatched its first lemon shipment for the United States market in 17 years... Macri said the recovery of the U.S. market was happening at a time when Argentina was "facing historical change to achieve integrated development across the whole country betting on what we all want, which is to grow and generate new jobs because that's the path to reducing poverty"... "Health is key in this sector and that's why we agreed to deliver ARS101 million (US\$5 million) from the State to infrastructure against HLB," he said, referring to phytosanitary programs to mitigate Huanglongbing...

[www.freshfruitportal.com; 20 April 2018]

Spain arranges lightning citrus tour of China

Eurofreshproduce is organising a promotional tour of China for Spanish citrus exporters in order to take advantage of new opportunities following China's decision to impose tariffs on US citrus imports. The initiative was set up last year by Oliver Huesmann of Málaga-based Fruitconsulting to market European-grown fruits and vegetables in China and other emerging markets. "This is a big opportunity for Spain," Huesmann told Fruitnet. "Faced with the current uncertainty, Chinese importers are more open than ever to new options." The Eurofreshproduce label can be incorporated into the packaging of any company denoting the provenance of European-grown fruits and vegetables, thereby communicating clearly to the consumer that they have been produced in accordance with EU standards. Spain's presence in the Chinese citrus market has been growing steadily and this year shipments are expected to reach around 40,000 tonnes. Although the current season has been marred by production shortages, quality issues and the high level of speculation, overall Spain has managed to build up a solid reputation as a reputable supplier of high quality citrus.

[fruitnet.com/eurofruit; 12 April 2018]

U.S.: Wonderful Company sees sky-high growth as strategy pays off

...Wonderful Citrus is one of the organization's deepest business segments in terms of vertical integration. It owns everything from nurseries to farming operations in California, Texas and Mexico and processing facilities. The company is the largest citrus grower in North America... Wonderful Citrus' most known product is its Halos, the U.S.'s leading mandarin brand that typically has around a 55% market share... in January 2017 the company announced it had acquired DNE World Fruit and DNE International – Florida's largest citrus marketing and export companies – which Krause said was to provide counter-seasonal fruit... Wonderful has also been significantly developing its lemons and lime programs, which, according to national accounts director Adam Lazo, have been growing at a double-digit rate for the last five years... Wonderful has been making significant land purchases for both lemons and limes over the years...

[www.freshfruitportal.com; 16 April 2018]