

Global Citrus Scan (2018_19)

John Edmonds (11 May 2018)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Argentina: Fruit fly found in U.S.-bound lemons

Argentina authorities have reportedly detected fruit fly in lemons due to be exported to the U.S., weeks after the first shipments of the fruit took place after a long hiatus in the market. The detection was made by phytosanitary watchdog Senasa in Tucuman, a major lemon-growing region in the country's northwest, El Cronista [in Spanish] reported. However, the province's governor, Juan Manzur, said that controls would be strengthened and exports to the U.S. would not be suspended. "There is no kind of restriction nor situation that can affect our exports to the U.S.," he was quoted as saying. He also referred to the detection as an "inconvenience that is solved quickly" and said the industry would continue to comply with quality regulations stipulated by the U.S. Three weeks ago Argentine President Mauricio Macri took part in an elated ceremony as the country's citrus sector dispatched its first lemon shipment for the U.S. market in 17 years. Argentine growers expected to export 15,000-20,000MT to the U.S. market this year, with fruit to be packed in 10 different approved facilities including eight in Tucumán and two in Salta. On May 1, 2017, the USDA announced it would not extend a stay on Argentine lemon imports, effectively reopening the market for growers in the South American country. The development was met by fierce opposition from much of the U.S. citrus industry, who raised concerns about the potential entry of pests and diseases.

[www.freshfruitportal.com; 9 May 2018]

USDA offers citrus block grant

US secretary of agriculture Sonny Perdue has announced...that the USDA will provide US\$340m through a block grant to the State of Florida for Hurricane Irma losses to citrus production. This grant will cover losses expected during the 2018-2020 crop years, reimbursement for the cost of buying and planting replacement trees – including resetting and grove rehabilitation – and for repair of damages to irrigation systems among other things...

[www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit; 9 May 2018]

Import our mandarin oranges

Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang has requested that President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo increase the import quota of mandarin oranges from China. In a joint press statement on Monday, Li said that during a bilateral meeting between the two leaders, he had conveyed China's concerns about a limitation on mandarin orange imports imposed by Indonesian authorities...A ministerial regulation on importing horticulture products issued by the Trade Ministry in 2017 has limited the importation of dozens of products, including mandarin oranges...The regulation stipulates that only importers with an importer identification number (API) and state-owned companies under the State-Owned Enterprises Ministry are allowed to import the listed products...

[freshplaza.com; 10 May 2018]

EU: Almost 9% fall in citrus production this season

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates that the citrus harvest in the European Union in the 2017/18 campaign, i.e. in the period from October 2017 to September 2018, will amount to approximately 10.8 million tonnes. This is nearly 9% less than in the previous season, reports Anna Kitale, expert on agricultural markets at BGŻ BNP Paribas. This drop is the result, among other reasons, of unfavourable weather conditions (drought and high temperatures) in Spain and Italy, which are the EU's largest citrus producers. In Spain, the volume is falling by 12%, to 6.2 million tonnes. In Italy, there has been a 7% drop in the production, down to 2.9 million tonnes, said Anna Kitale. The EU citrus sector is dominated by oranges, with an almost 60% share of the total production. In the current season, the harvest is estimated at just under 6.3 million tonnes, which is nearly 8 percent less than last season. It is worth stressing, however, that the quality and size of the fruit in Spain and Italy, which account for approximately 80% of all EU oranges, is considered good. The EU harvest of mandarins in the current season is estimated at nearly 3 million tonnes, which is 13% less than in the previous season. The EU's lemon harvest is likely to amount to around 1.5 million tonnes, i.e. about 1.4% less than in the previous season. The EU production of grapefruits is estimated at 88.6 thousand tonnes; that is, it will be 16% lower compared to the previous season.

[freshplaza.com; 7 May 2018]