

Global Citrus Scan (2018_21)

John Edmonds (24 May 2018)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Fast start to lemon season but navels colouring slowly in Citrusdal

The high daytime temperatures of last week in Citrusdal, Western Cape, have been broken by a few days of rain, lifting spirits and lowering temperatures needed for colouring, especially on navels which are two to three weeks late. Citrusdal is able to export to the USA and the situation on the US market is a "perfect storm", according to one trader, with California exiting early. South African citrus will arrive on the US market towards the end of May and in Citrusdal, packlines are running at full tilt. At this stage Western Cape navels obtain the best prices in the US, with the balance going to the EU, Russia and the Middle East. The recent rain raises the possibility of splitting on navels but benefits the colour development they need before they can undertake their journey to the US. Whereas the navel harvest has started in some Citrusdal orchards, others report that they're going to "pick like crazy" to get fruit off as soon as they've sufficiently coloured up. Growers report that navels are bigger than last year, with very good internal quality and juice percentage, and last year's problem of navel end fissures and Alternaria rot mercifully absent. The soft citrus season started around six weeks ago in Citrusdal with Satsumas which were well-received by the British market, followed by early clementines of excellent quality and size distribution, even if volumes are 5 to 10% down. Citrusdal growers will be sending the majority of their soft citrus to the USA...Lemons in Citrusdal have coloured up quickly and the harvest started more than a month ago and expected to run for another ten weeks or so. The fruit quality is very good and the harvest is up on last year, some say, when the effect of the drought was more noticeable...An increase in unwaxed lemons, destined for Japan, the UK and the EU, is also noted...The drawback to wax-free lemons, however, is moisture loss. A conventional lemon loses roughly 6% moisture over four to six weeks, so we'll have to see how these lemons travel." On lemons the size distribution is good, generally peaking between counts 100 and 138..

[freshplaza.com; 23 May 2018]

Turkey needs to take extra measures to protect its position in citrus fruits exports

The citrus fruit season which runs from September 2017 to April 2018 has come to an end. The Mersin Commerce Association Chairman Abdullah Ozdemir: "According to the trade figures, citrus fruit exports have increased by 14 % in volume and reached 1.8 million tons for the season. 75 % of our exports have been to Russia, Iraq, Ukraine and Saudi Arabia. 40% of our exports were mandarins, 27% were lemons, 24 % were oranges and the remaining 9 % were grapefruits. Our country has generated an income of 924 million USD from these exports. Almost 40% of our 4.8 million tons of local citrus fruits production is exported. To increase the production is dependent on our export performance. Compared to 5 years ago, our export volume has increased by 30 % in total. However in terms of monetary turnover, the increase is only 4 %. One of the main reasons behind that is the price competition, now the income per ton went down from 625 USD to 500 USD. Mandarin, which is our main export product, brings us 494 USD per ton, this number is 1,000 USD per ton for South Africa and 980 USD per Spain. For orange we receive 390 USD per ton compared to 830 USD per ton by Egypt and 780 USD by Spain. We earn 625 USD per ton for lemons whereas this figure is at 1,200 USD per ton for Spain and 1,030 USD per ton for Argentina. In sum, we need to take some steps in order not to lose our position in the export market of citrus fruits. Germany, France, Netherlands, US and UK are the top citrus fruit importing countries in the world and our share is below than 1% in these markets. These 5 countries imported 5.4 million tons of citrus fruits in 2017. Spain has 43 % of the market share in these 5 countries, followed by Mexico with 15 % and South Africa with 12 %. We need to enter into these markets by analyzing the market needs and preference for varieties and grow these products at good quality. Also we only have products for 6 months of the year compared to year around production in competing countries for these products, which affects our competitive position in the market. That's why we need to spread our production to have year-round supply and we need to select varieties accordingly. Also we need to have proper cold storage and cool chains to minimize the post-harvest waste...

[freshplaza.com; 23 May 2018]

Chile forecasts huge increase in mandarin exports

The Chilean Citrus Committee has forecast exports to rise by 17% this season, with mandarins driving much of the increase. The organization expected mandarin exports to grow by 32% to 100,819 metric tons (MT), up from 76,373MT in 2017. Orange exports are set to rise by 12% from 75,478MT to 84,449MT, while clementines are forecast to increase by 27% from 41,000MT to 51,924MT. Lemon exports, meanwhile, are forecast to see modest growth of 1% to 78,104MT. Chilean Citrus Committee representative Monserrat Valenzuela said the expected rise in mandarin exports is driven by new orchards coming into production and greater availability of water thanks to good rainfall last winter...

[www.freshfruitportal.com; 24 May 2018]