

Global Citrus Scan (2018_22)

John Edmonds (1 June 2018)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

A freak hailstorm hit the Lowveld

A freak hailstorm hit the Lowveld area in Mpumalanga on Sunday. Farmers were still tallying up the cost of the losses by Wednesday. Willie van Aardt, general manager of Farm Whisky, a citrus farm outside Komatipoort, estimates the storm destroyed the equivalent of about 30,000 cartons of citrus...According to Van Aardt, they were 20% into their harvest that started on 15 April and set to end in August...Grapefruit, valencia oranges and soft fruit were destroyed...Hailstorms at this time of year are extremely rare in the Lowveld. According to the South African Weather Service (SAWS), the storm is believed to have started in Carolina, almost 236km away from Komatipoort. However, farms in Mbombela, which sits between the two towns were not affected...The hailstorm also hit Alkmaar, Mara, Tekwane, KaNyamazane, Malalane, the Kruger National Park (Skukuza) and Hazzyview...

[Business Insider South Africa; 30 May 2018]

China buys 33% more citrus from Spain, but growth prospects are not met

A few weeks after the conclusion of the citrus export campaign to China, the Asian giant has seen an increase in Spanish shipments. Purchases from traders in the Region of Valencia stand out the most, with a 33% growth...Canada, another distant destination which has recently benefited from the signing of the CETA with the EU, has substantially increased its citrus purchases, to a much greater extent than China. It has recorded an increase of up to 63% (almost 52,000 tonnes) and has become the main non-European destination for Spanish orange traders. Sources of the Citrus Management Committee (CGC) claim that, after years with a certain euphoria, "the Chinese market has recorded slow growth."...According to the CGC, the clear slowdown of Spanish shipments has also been a result of "the strong recovery of China's local production, which had been very much affected by citrus greening in previous years..."Spanish oranges have had to compete against the Egyptian in China and other international markets. The latter are much cheaper, benefiting since November 2016 from a huge depreciation of the local currency (the Egyptian pound) against the dollar," said the same sources. In this context, Egypt managed to increase its orange shipments to China by 204% last season, exceeding 100,000 tonnes.

[freshplaza.com; 31 May 2018]

Brazil: "Increasing our export volumes of lemons year by year"

...Most of the Cutrale shipments of lemons went to Spain, UK, Italy and Canada", says Carlos Jose Amorim, export manager of Sucocitricio Cutrale, Brazil. He explains that the company is increasing the export volumes of lemons year by year. "A few years ago, Cutrale has expanded its cultivation area of lemons looking for a bigger share of both domestic and international markets." In a normal year, the Brazilian lemon campaign begins when there is still European lemons available in the market, or even imported lemons from other origins. "This doesn't stop Europe from being the biggest importer of Cutrale's lemons during the export season...Amorim concludes that during the last two campaigns the company noticed a significant growth for lemons destined for the processing industry. "This fruit, packaged in wooden pallet bins of 1,180 kg, represents almost 50% of our total export volume for this year."

[freshplaza.com; 28 May 2018]

Red hot: Sicilian citrus sales double

Exports of Sicilian red-fleshed oranges to the UK have risen considerably this year, according to one of the region's leading exporters Oranfrizer, which has itself seen its sales more than double compared with the previous season. And with shipments of the fruit to the British market continuing into June, the current campaign is certainly one of the longest ever for Sicilian citrus. Key to that extended success, says Oranfrizer chief executive Nello Alba, has been a change in strategy that has seen the group's growers plant a larger proportion of fruit for harvesting later in the season.

[fruitnet.com/fpj; 30 May 2018]

Spain: Criminal investigation proceedings for illegal planting of Sigal mandarins

The Provincial Prosecutor's Office of Castellon has opened criminal investigation proceedings following a complaint from LA UNIÓN de Llauradors. This has been filed due to the planting of citrus varieties from other countries (in this case, the Sigal), allegedly before undergoing the mandatory analyses and sanitation requirements...But above all, LA UNIÓN believes that it is a serious threat to the health of our citrus farms, because we are dealing with varieties that have been planted without any sanitary guarantees. Consequently, they can potentially spread pests or diseases, such as the Huanglongbing (HLB), or Citrus Black Spot, to other plantations...

[freshplaza.com; 30 May 2018]