Global Citrus Scan (2018_24)

John Edmonds (15 June 2018) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Australia: Citrus canker outbreak spreads

An outbreak of citrus canker disease is reportedly spreading in Australia, putting the US$600 million citrus industry on edge. The country has been free of the disease for more than a decade, but it was discovered on a potted lime tree in April in a plant nursery in Darwin, The Australian reported. Last week infected trees were found in Katherine in the Northern Territory and in Kununurra in Western Australia…Fears are rising that the outbreak could quickly reach the major citrus-growing regions of South Australia's Riverland, the Murray Valley, central Queensland and northern NSW. Some of Australia's largest fruit growers are reported to be furious at how the outbreak has been handled by government officials and industry organizations, accusing biosecurity authorities and Citrus Australia of a "code of silence" about the outbreak and downplaying its seriousness by saying it is confined to urban gardens.…
[www.freshfruitportal.com; 5 June 2018]

UK: Tesco stocks green lemons after citrus shortage

Tesco is selling green lemons after a shortage from Spanish growers hit supply to the UK. The supermarket lifted its quality specifications to accept the fruit…The decision also helps avoid further waste in the home, adding another two days shelf life as it turns yellow. The shortage was caused by significantly reduced end of season volume in Spain, from where the UK gets most of its lemons until the end of spring. Traditionally in late June the South African lemon season starts which then takes over as the UK's main supply source…
[fruitnet.com/fpj; 12 June 2018]

Chile evaluates the effects of frost on citrus fruits

…the Citrus Committee of ASOEX spoke about the status of the citrus orchards and the actions that their associates, which represent about 75% of Chile's citrus exporters, need to take…The damage caused by frost depends on the minimum temperature, the time of exposure to that temperature, the species, the variety and the state of maturity of the fruit; thus…To date, harvests have advanced as follows: 35% advance in Lemons, 55% advance in Clementines and 10% advance in Navel oranges, which present a good sugar level, which allows the fruits to better resist low temperatures. The harvest of the late mandarins hasn't started. The Committee expects…within the next two weeks, once the evaluations have been made in each orchard; any decrease in the export volumes, will be reported in a timely manner.
[freshplaza.com; 12 June 2018]

Spain: Egyptian and Moroccan oranges push prices down

With just 5% of the harvest left to be completed, the 2017-2018 citrus campaign is in its final stretch. Palmanaranja, a citrus professional association, believes it has been a good one, even though "prices will be lower, with fewer market opportunities, due to the import of oranges from Egypt and Morocco." …In the last session of the citrus board of the Lonja of the Chamber of Commerce (held on 31 May), it was revealed that the price of Valencia late oranges had dropped to between 0.24 and 0.29 Euro per kilo. On 10 April, the same variety cost between 0.35 and 0.40 Euro per kilo…Now, with the harvest expected to come to an end shortly, prospects are already good for the 2018-2019 campaign…
[freshplaza.com; 12 June 2018]

US: Strong demand for easy peelers despite significantly higher arrivals

The easy peeler market on the USEC remains stable and buoyant on arrival volumes that remain unable to fully meet market demand. This is in spite of the fact that Chilean clementine shipments to the USA through week 22 are over 49% higher than last season…Chile continues to favour the USA market with 99.8% of its total soft citrus loadings through week 22 headed that way…Peruvian satsumas and clementines continue to arrive on the USEC and the first of the South African easy peelers are expected in week 25…California mandarins are finished and there are only light volumes of domestic navel oranges remaining in the market...California navel oranges are finishing up and imports will only start to become available in week 25 with the much anticipated arrival on the USEC of the first South African bulk vessel of the season. Grower expectations are running high for this first South African fruit as it will arrive with virtually no competition in the market. With only 2 200 pallets of navels on that vessel, that vessel will sell out before the next bulk arrival in week 27. Week 27 will also see the first substantial arrival of Chilean navel oranges on the USEC…Chilean shippers are seeing a generally small sized crop due to a peculiarly dry spring. Last week's rains…will help to size up the later Chilean navel varieties…
[freshplaza.com; 11 June 2018]