Global Citrus Scan (2018_30)

John Edmonds (13 July 2018) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Valencia traders pin their hopes on post-holiday market recovery

The Valencia season in the north of South Africa, where the early varieties like Turkey and Benny are almost done and industry is moving over to the Midknights and Deltas, is looking good from a volume perspective – but so is everything else, saturating the market and dragging down the movement of fruit.

Peter Nicholson of Alicedale Estate says there is no apparent reason at the moment for this situation to change much for the foreseeable future. "There is no supply gap for the market to empty out. The European market is very full, there is a build-up of fruit and a low sales rate and therefore I think it's going to remain a difficult year and a slow market."

He continues: "It's not just our citrus, it's all fruit and it is worldwide – peaches, plums, avocados. The climate was just such that there was huge production worldwide. For the remainder of the season there will be a perception of oversupply, even if it's not the case."…"We are now in a very slow phase and importers in the Northern Hemisphere are a bit pessimistic and applying the brakes to Valencia imports. There is a lot of summer fruit and people going on holiday would rather eat, say, stone fruit," notes Riaan Ellis, trading operations manager at Unifrutti, "but the expectation is that the momentum will improve with the re-opening of schools in Europe, towards the end of August, and the current situation just has to be managed to keep fruit moving. There's no use being too aggressive at the start of the season, going for too high price points. We're told Egyptian product should be out of the market in about three weeks' time and then everyone should feel more positive about South African product. The only thing now is to remain patient."…

[freshplaza.com; 10 July 2018]

"Overseas citrus increasingly a market of calculated buying"

…Commercial manager Tjeerd Hoekstra of Total Produce BV shines a light on the overseas season…The overseas season was kicked off with grapefruit from South Africa, which started slightly later than usual. "The emphasis this season is on the smaller sizes, which is where there is the most price pressure, into which the larger sizes are being pulled as well. The quality is generally good, although the grapefruit is arriving paler due to the temperature regime related to the False Codling Moth (FCM)…At the start of the South African season there was still a lot of fruit from Turkey, Morocco and Spain on the market…The price of grapefruit soon dropped towards 9-12 Euro…The supply is also 10-12% higher than in previous years, but there is still trade in its way and we still have around two months to sell grapefruit." In the import of oranges…large supply of Turkish, Egyptian, Moroccan and Spanish oranges…There is a lot of bad produce on the market…At the same time the good quality is considerably better paid for…"We will receive our first Valencia oranges from Zimbabwe this week. They are in the middle of loading up in South Africa. The expectation is that everyone will switch to overseas product and we are starting with prices around 12-13 Euro. The market for Navels hasn't been overloaded in recent weeks either." "Last but not least we see a good market for lemons. The market started very high with prices up to 28 Euro. This was too much for the market, but the current price level of 20-23 Euro for South African lemons is still good…Argentina has a regular lemon supply, which makes prospects positive…

[freshplaza.com; 12 July 2018]

Spain: Valencian citrus, persimmons hit by another hailstorm

A hailstorm on Wednesday caused significant damage to citrus…in the Spanish region of Valencia, which was hit by more storms just last week…According to the first estimate, 4,000 hectares of crops were affected, including 2,800 hectares of citrus and 500 hectares persimmons…In some areas, the hail reached the size of golf balls, so the damage to the fruits is considerable, AVA-ASAJA said.…

[www.freshfruitportal.com; 22 June 2018]

Peru: Citrus exports could increase by 15% this year

According to the general manager of the Association of Producers of Citrus of Peru (ProCitrus), Sergio del Castillo Valderrama, Peru could export 192 thousand tons of citrus this year, i.e. 15% more than the 167 thousand tons it dispatched in the previous season…up until week 25 of the current campaign (June 23), Peru had exported 61,684 tons of citrus (51,390 tons of which correspond to tangerines and 2,765 tons to tangelos). By the same week of 2017 Peru had shipped 44,442 tons of citrus (36,694 tons of tangerines and 2,562 tons of tangelos)..

[freshplaza.com; 9 July 2018]

Uruguay feels pull of US citrus market

Uruguay exported 30,000 tonnes of citrus between January and the beginning of June with a corresponding value of US$20m, according to official figures. Around 60 per cent of this was shipped to the US, with a further 20 per cent going to Europe and the rest to Russia, Brazil, Canada and the UAE, among other destinations…More than 7,000 tonnes of citrus – equivalent to 6 per cent of the annual crop – were lost as a result of rain and hail storms that swept through Salto, the main citrus producing region, last month…

[fruitnet.com/asiafruit; 13 July 2018]