Global Citrus Scan (2018_31)

John Edmonds (19 July 2018) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

South African orange season complicated by Egypt

South African orange exporters have had an “interesting” season this year due to a larger Egyptian crop, according to the chief of the Eastern Cape-based Sundays River Citrus Company…“We have an interesting orange season. Egypt is longer in the market, and it’s definitely been a little bit difficult,” he said.He explained the situation had led to a lower sales rate than usual…But he said the big test would be in August when the European holiday season kicks in. “If sales rates can be maintained in that period we’ll be fine. But traditionally it’s showed that sales rate can be slower. That can make things a little bit tougher than what one is used to,” he said. He also explained that there was very little industry information available from Egypt on crop forecasts, in contrast to South African, Chile, and Argentina. “One has no idea what Egypt is up to. They don’t publish information,” De Waal said. “We’ve always known that Egypt would grow aggressively, and I think their game is getting up to standard…

[www.freshfruitportal.com; 17 July 2018]

U.S. easy peeler market “softens” as SH imports rise

The U.S. easy peeler market “softened” last week due to a confluence of factors, according to Capespan North America CEO Mark Greenberg. He said heavy Chilean clementine arrivals on the East Coast in late June and early July complemented 2,000 metric tons (MT) of fruit from South African and 2,600MT from Peru. “These arrivals came just as retailers were focused on building their summer fruit displays for the July 4 festivities and paying less attention to their citrus offerings,” he said…“The result was a full soft citrus pipeline and, by Week 28, the first appreciable accumulation of inventory,” he said…“Given the heavy volumes which, in the case of Chile and Peru, represent substantial increases over last season, the market has performed remarkably well,” he said. “But the fact remains that soft citrus spot prices will always react quickly and efficiently to immediate industry inventory levels.”

[www.freshfruitportal.com; 18 July 2018]

Canada: Southern hemisphere citrus exports hindered by weather

Weather has brought about some difficulties for the Southern hemisphere citrus season. Heavy rains and cool weather have caused delays and lighter supplies from South America, while in South Africa, it's the lack of rain that has resulted in fruit not sizing up as much as the market would have hoped for. "Argentina had really bad weather which had a detrimental impact on early pickings," said Dino Gallo of Agri-Mondo. "We are seeing better conditions now, but as a result of the earlier problems, shipments to Canada have been lighter than usual…At this time of year, demand for citrus is hindered by the attention local summer fruit receives from retailers and consumers alike. Combined with plentiful supplies that are expected to arrive in the coming weeks, prices look set to ease by the end of the month and into August. …Demand in Canada is predicted to pick up again in September which will likely cause prices to rise once again…"

[freshplaza.com; 17 July 2018]

Europe is literally waiting for every lemon”

Lemons are the only silver lining to a season in which other citrus from South Africa have had a hard time of it in a full European summer market, says Snyman Kritzinger, managing director of Grown4U in Kirkwood…“…Prices aren’t at 2015/2016 levels but demand certainly is and prices have been on the up for the last while, yielding a good return, around 20 euros for nice sizes.” The pull from Europe is raising prices in the Middle East too. Complicating factors to the Argentine lemon season, like excessive rain and strikes, as well as a focus on the US market, coupled with a drop in Spanish Verna lemon supplies, have contributed to the market’s receptiveness. Fruit size is expected to be smaller towards the end of the season, with a 138 peak…“I think we’re going to see a very short tail end to the season”…The navel estimate for the Sundays River area, originally at 6 million 15kg cartons, have just been reduced with a million cartons, the result of a combination of factors: the recent two week-strike led to navels hanging longer than it should have, an increased incidence of navel creasing and lower pack-outs…

[freshplaza.com; 17 July 2018]

Imported lemon shipments failing to satisfy US demand

Lemon supplies from South America are failing to satisfy demand…California is in very low production and…the Mexican season which is not due to start for another two weeks. Prices are very high and any box of lemons is attracting strong interest. It's not clear what is causing the lack of South American fruit, although weather is the most likely reason, with heavy rains impacting some of the growing regions, both in South America and Mexico…"Supplies of lemons are extremely tight right now," said David Stone, of Valhalla Sales and Marketing. "The pipeline is empty and there is simply not enough fruit to keep up with demand. Prices are exceptionally high, generally sitting between the low $30s and into the $40s, depending on size and grade."…

[freshplaza.com; 17 July 2018]