Global Citrus Scan (2018_38)

John Edmonds (6 September 2018)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

South Africa, Argentina partially suspending EU-bound citrus exports

South Africa and Argentina are this month suspending part of their citrus exports to the European Union (EU) for the remainder of the season, according to the Valencian Farmers Association (AVA-ASAJA). It said the decisions were made to preserve market access by avoiding interceptions of fruit found to have citrus black spot (CBS). The organization said that South Africa had informed the European Commission that it would suspend exports of late Valencia oranges from CBS areas from Sept. 22…Argentine phytosanitary watchdog Senasa had decided to suspend lemon exports to the EU following three positive detections of CBS last month, bringing the total number of interceptions over the campaign to seven. South Africa has had no interceptions of fruits with CBS this season, according to data from the European Union Notification System for Plant Health Interceptions (Europhyt). Exports of soft citrus varieties like Nadorcott, Tango and Orri will continue, said AVA-ASAJA, which criticized the countries' decision to partially suspend shipments…
[Freshfruitportal.com; 5 September 2018]

"There is a grapefruit crisis in Europe"

According to Tal Amit, head of Israel's Plant Production and Marketing Board's Citrus sector, "there is quite a crisis in grapefruits in the European market at the moment. South Africa had a bumper crop and the market collapsed." He says this led to very low prices for grapefruit from the Southern Hemisphere. "We hope that by the time we get to market, stocks will be depleted", he says. Grapefruit harvesting in Israel starts in mid-September to have this citrus fruit on the shelves by the end of September…
[Freshplaza.com; 3 September 2018]

Pakistan citrus orchards under attack by diseases

Citrus growers have urged the authorities to take measures for securing the orange orchards against attacks of various dangerous diseases. This year, many trees were damaged and more than 30 percent less yield is expected for 2018. Growers are frustrated that Citrus Research Institute Sargodha (CRIS) has failed to guide them in this regard…Citrus Research Institute Sargodha Director, Muhammad Nawaz Maken, has advised growers to consult the CRIS experts for safeguarding their orange farms against the diseases. He admitted that in the current season a drop of more than 30 percent in kinnow yield is expected.
[Freshplaza.com; 3 September 2018]

Argentine lemon growers will continue building on US market

The lemon market continues to see very high prices and imported fruit is barely able to satisfy demand…In Argentina, producers are preparing for their final shipments for the year. "The South American season for fresh lemons is ending," noted Mariano Sangronis of Citromax. "Argentina's last loadings were expected during week 35 for the US market and extending to week 36 for other markets. Northern hemisphere lemon production is expected to begin after week 38, so the last arrivals from the Southern hemisphere will have a smooth sale transition since there is reduced stock in the market."…"Overall volumes will be up from last season," Sangronis announced. "We experienced poor weather conditions at the beginning of the season that affected picking. Argentine lemons were able to fulfil US customers' expectations. We had the commitment to offer the high quality fresh lemon they remember from 2001 and we did so… "The extremely tough and limited agreement results in US customers paying exorbitant prices for both imported and domestic production," Sangronis explained. "Limitations make operators struggle to achieve the desired results, generating higher costs and limiting volumes to US consumers as happened during this summer.
"The two major limitations are: "1- Harvesting color limitation - Fruit must be collected while still in the green color scale. This color grade puts artificial limitations on Argentine growers who are unable to pick, classify, pack and sell a premium or fancy fresh lemon." "2- Packing House limitation - Packing houses are banned from working fruit destined for the US and other markets - such as the EU - at the same time. Being unable to pack lemons for different markets side-by-side creates logistical headaches both in the packing house and eventual marketing of the product."…
[Freshplaza.com; 5 September 2018]