

Global Citrus Scan (2018_47)

Portia Gasa 23 November 2018)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Peru: More citrus exports expected in 2019

In 2019, Peruvian exports of citrus fruits (mandarins, tangelos, oranges, grapefruit and lemon) are expected to grow by 10% over the 180,239 tons dispatched in this year's campaign, stated the general manager of ProCitrus, Sergio del Castillo Valderrama. "In the medium and long term we will maintain a growth rate of around 10% in citrus exports from Peru. This year, due to the volume produced, we expected exports to increase by 15%, but the reality was that they increased by 8% (when compared to the 166,616 tons shipped in 2017)," he said. The increase in these shipments in 2018 was lower than expected due to climate issues, which caused a physiological disorder in the fruit that caused that they did not meet the requirements to be shipped to international markets (mainly, the fruit was stained), he added. "I believe that the growth will be led by the late tangerines (W.Murcott)," he said. In 2018, early tangerines, such as the Satsuma, had a good export performance, but in 2019 there may be fewer volumes. The tangelo has stabilized (to nearly 20 thousand tons per year) and the growth of lemon shipments has been surprising, in fact, there are companies that are going to invest in this crop. In addition, he said, grapefruit has had a global recovery, many of the areas where this fruit was planted (such as in Florida, United States) were replaced by tangerines and oranges due to price issues; However, once again there is a demand for grapefruit, especially the red variety, which has recently been planted in Peru.

[Freshplaza; 22 November 2018]

Ailimpo warns of Turkish lemon violations

Spanish lemon and grapefruit association Ailimpo has once again issued a warning to European importers to be vigilant for potential MRL violations of lemons coming from Turkey. Spanish producers are facing intense competition on the European market thanks to an increase in Spanish Fino production and strong volumes arriving from Turkey. For the last three years, lemons exported from Turkey into the European Union have been screened at the EU border to check whether they strictly comply with European legislation in terms of pesticide residue levels. The EU has confirmed that it has issued three health alerts since the start of the 2018/19 season in September, following the detection in Bulgaria of three batches of Turkish lemons with chlorpyrifos present in concentrations that were more than double the EU's Maximum Residue Limit. Following these detections the batches were destroyed or re-exported to a non-EU market.

"The three alerts...confirm the existence of serious management issues facing the Turkish sector, which has proven not to be capable of providing European clients with food safety guarantees," Ailimpo said in a statement, "This situation should no doubt be considered by European clients when planning their lemon supply schedules from Turkey in the coming weeks."

[Fruitnet.com/Eurofruit; 20 November 2018]

California Citrus Network: Forum to facilitate communication and information exchange"

The University of California Cooperative Extension office is launching a new website for those involved in citrus production in California, from growers to academics. The forum is supposed to allow people within the field to exchange information in real time. Many growers already have their own small network of individuals that they rely on for information regarding specific issues or problems encountered in the field. But an internet based forum would allow individuals to broaden this 'in house group' to all individuals involved in the industry to better communicate ideas, information, and concerns regarding various aspects of citrus production. The forum site is set up to deal with the various citrus regions; SJV, Desert, Coastal, Southern Interior, and Sacramento Valley. Specific areas set up thus far are; Pests, Diseases, Irrigation, Fertility, Weeds, Harvesting Issues, and Post-Harvest Issues. The utility of this forum is that a person has the ability to make an observation in the field, snap a couple of pictures of what he/she sees, and easily post this information to the forum where the citrus community at large could view and respond to start a thread on the topic.

[Freshplaza; 19 November 2018]

Rains dampen citrus outlook in Valencia

Producers in Valencia are assessing the impact of the torrential rain that has fallen across much of the region in recent days. After what has been described as one of the wettest autumns for decades, citrus and kaki production have been particularly affected as both seasons are in full swing. Many fields remain underwater leaving producers unable to harvest their fruit and raising concerns over "pixat" and fungal skin problems due to the excessive moisture. There are also reports of localised damage to infrastructure like walls and roads. Farmers union AVA told EFE that citrus varieties that are at the optimum point of maturation are particularly vulnerable to damage. Carles Peris of the Unió de Llauradors i Ramaders union explained that the accumulation of water in the roots left citrus and kaki trees vulnerable to asphyxiation. Peris said the extent of the damage would depend on how weather conditions evolve in the coming weeks: a period of low temperatures and dry weather would lessen the impact of the rain while high temperatures and humidity would worsen the losses. On the plus side, the rains have replenished depleted reservoirs, and growers say they will benefit late season citrus harvested from January onwards, helping to boost quality and sizes. The rains have come at a critical moment for citrus producers, who were gearing up for the sales push ahead of the Saint Nicholas celebrations of 6 December when oranges are traditionally given as gifts in countries like the Netherlands.

[Fruitnet.com/Eurofruit; 20 November 2018]