

Global Citrus Scan (2019_16)

(John Edmonds 24 May 2019)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Durban loads second China/Japan vessel

One week after the first-ever break bulk reefer vessel with South African citrus to China sailed from Durban, the second vessel arrived in port. In all, eight reefer vessels are now already planned for the season, co-loading for both Japan and China. "The loading of the first vessel, Baltic Summer, went smoothly," says Mitchell Brooke, the Citrus Growers' Association (CGA) logistics development manager. "The breakbulk shipment in a way already proved its worth, because at the same time there was a strike involving containers in the port of Durban. The Baltic Summer was not affected by the strike and loaded without problems." It seems that the first shipment has already firmly established the concept of breakbulk reefer co-loading to Japan and China. This is illustrated by the fact that the second vessel is already loading and should sail by the weekend. All vessels in the programme will discharge first in Japan and then in China so that the sterri-programmes can be completed during transit time. Eventually it is expected that South Korea will also be included in the breakbulk programme...

[fruitnet.com/eurofruit; 21 May 2019]

High retail price for Egyptian oranges in Chinese market

Summer is approaching and Chinese oranges have completely disappeared from the domestic market. The main supply of oranges to the Chinese market currently comes from Egypt and Spain, and these import oranges are selling well. The production season of South African oranges is about to begin and Shirley Zheng from Shaanxi Great Tang Modern Agriculture Co., Ltd. described the current orange market: "The production season of domestic oranges is already over. We mainly focus on Egyptian and Spanish oranges at the moment. However, the production seasons of Egyptian and Spanish oranges are also approaching their final stage. In general, we stop importing oranges before the production season enters the final stage. The product quality of Egyptian and Spanish oranges was relatively stable in 2019 and sales conditions were smooth. The retail price was excellent. The season of Egyptian oranges is expected to conclude in middle to late June. The current supply volume is limited, and the price is gradually rising. The product quality is not bad at all. In comparison with Spanish oranges, however, the price of Egyptian oranges is quite reasonable. This is one of the main reasons why Egyptian oranges are so popular with Chinese consumers."...

[Freshplaza; 20 May 2019]

"Everyone very wary on the lime market"

Lime prices have been on a good level in recent weeks. "For a long time, the prices in America were at such a level that it was not interesting for the Mexicans to send limes to Europe. Things have slowly since been changing. Supply is gradually starting to trickle in. This is making the Brazilians a little nervous," says Marcel Verdellen of the Dutch company, Satori Holland. "In limes, we are coming out of a dramatic 2018. We also had a tough time with low prices at the start of the year. This is making everyone on the lime market very wary. Containers are not simply being sent," continues Marcel. "Statistics show that Brazil sent considerably fewer containers at the beginning of the year. This was due to the low prices. It was only from week 12 that more was sent than last year. In contrast, the supply from Mexico is more on the same level." "Since then, prices are at the EUR7 mark again. Supply and demand are now well balanced. In other years there was a dip in the market at the end of May/beginning of June. But, summer is usually a good period for lime sales. For example, we have seen demand pick up from, among other places, Greece," Marcel concludes.

[Freshplaza; 20 May 2019]

"Chinese markets for grapefruit and lemons are like day and night"

More and more domestic and overseas fruits will enter the Chinese market in large volumes as the weather gradually warms up... Jiang Minghai of Shanghai Sea Fruit Trade Co., Ltd. provided an overview of the grapefruit and lemon markets: "South African grapefruit have been on the market for some time now, but the supply volume is still limited. South African grapefruit are expected to enter the Chinese market in large volumes in the second half of May. The price is then expected to come down. The current wholesale price shows serious fluctuation." "What makes people happier is the product quality of grapefruit. The product quality of South African grapefruit in particular is quite good this year. We will have to wait and see how the market develops later in the season, but as the temperature rises, so does market demand." "Lemon market conditions are far less positive than the grapefruit market. The main supply of lemons comes from Anyue, Sichuan. The market price did not show fluctuations for a long time, but according to our estimates the price will begin to increase in the coming month. When the market improves, we have sufficient fruit in storage to satisfy growing market demand."

[Freshplaza; 20 May 2019]