Global Citrus Scan (2019_24)

(John Edmonds 26 August 2019) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Turkey: "We will start our season late to prevent losing money"

In Turkey the lemon harvest has started for the earliest variety. However, legal exports will have to wait a while as permission has not yet been given. The lemon has not reached the required ripeness and quality just yet. One Turkish exporter believes there will be significantly less volume for the Enterdonat variety, with 50 per cent less production compared to last season. According to Mustafa Arslan, owner of MDA-Agricultural Products (MDA-Agro), the Far East could be a far more interesting marker than the European one…I'm not expecting to export a lot to Europe this season, the Far East countries seem much more interesting with better potential."…The North-East wind affected the Enterdonat lemons the most, as its flowers dropped after that. This is the main reason the quantity has dropped by a significant amount…With prices dropping fairly fast once the season gets going, Arslan is thinking of changing his strategy this year…I'll start a little later and wait for prices on the farms to drop, to prevent losing money." …Although Turkish lemons are cheaper compared to the rest of the world, this has nothing to do with lesser quality, Arslan claims…I dare to say our quality is better than that of Spain, Morocco and Egypt, but we've lost the battle in marketing."
[Freshplaza.com; 23 August 2019]

China: "Increased tangerine imports from Australia because of Sino-US trade war"

"The Sino-US trade war certainly has an impact on our services. For many tangerine exporters in the USA the cost price of trade and therefore the export price of their products has increased as a result of higher custom tariffs. Many exporters from the USA stopped supplying the Chinese market. Since the new policies were implemented last month, we have reduced the volume of our purchases in the USA and we have expanded our import volume from Australia." This is according to manager Yang from Jiangsu Jieji Agricultural Science and Technology Co., Ltd. "The tangerines we import from Australia are supplied by a company called 2PH…The retail season of Australian tangerines begins around June 15th and lasts until around September 15th. "In this period the domestic tangerines have not yet entered the market. Australian tangerines enter the Chinese market in the off-season, which gives them an advantage. Chinese consumers also benefit…We mainly sell the tangerines without packaging for around 24.5 yuan [3.47 USD] per 0.5 kg. The import price and the market price are both on the same level as last year. Even though the Australian tangerine is considered a high-end market product in China, in comparison with the tangerines from the USA, whose price is pushed up by additional custom tariffs, the Australian tangerine offers good value and Chinese market demand is visibly growing."…
[Freshplaza.com; 22 August 2019]

"Boat delays cause challenges for citrus import"

Rain in Argentina, delays from South Africa and Argentina and temperatures in Western Europe in July between 20 and 40 degrees Celsius: citrus sales haven't been easy. Andres Ribas of Oosterom of Vientosur / FruitOne Europe sums it up. "It was hard for Argentinian lemons to come in at the start of the season due to the large supply from Spain. There was more space for the lemons after that, but the loads were considerable lower due to the extreme phyto controls and rain," says Andres. "The South African season is also a logistical drama due to strikes at the terminals and the port capacity with up to three delays per vessel. Of course this situation creates opportunities, but it also causes a lot of headaches trying to meet the programmes." "The South African grape fruit arrived on an empty market and went into its traditional decline in recent weeks. Less grapefruit was sent compared to last year, which we will notice over the coming weeks. The varied temperatures in Europe didn't help the sales. One day was melon weather, while the next called for a hot mug of soup," laughs Andres. "The stocks have now cleaned up and the consumption is pulling up towards the end of the school holidays. Prices are between 13 and 15 Euro, dependent on the size and the quality in particular." "Mandarin sales were difficult for a long time due to the weather. The sales of the nets was tough. We did sell a lot of Tango and Orri mandarins in the programmes. You see that a lot of people opt for the better varieties, even during the heart of summer. The sales of mandarins was ahead in consumption, but oranges like Navels were lacking, the internal and external quality wasn't great and the old Spanish supplies were in the way. After a difficult period at the end of July the market is now pulling up a bit again." "With the varieties like Midknight and Valencia Late from Argentina and South Africa we expect sufficient pressing oranges of good quality for the programmes. Although the prediction is that the supply of South African pressing oranges will be a lot lower than last year with an even bigger demand from Asia than in previous years."
[Freshplaza.com; 19 August 2019]