

Global Citrus Scan (2019_27)

(John Edmonds 13 September 2019)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Chilean citrus debuts in China

...Chinese customs officials recently travelled to Chile to review its phytosanitary protocols, resulting in the signing of a pre-agreement between the two countries that is due be ratified by their respective presidents in November. Asoex president Ronald Bown said citrus would join a growing line-up of produce exported to China, which in the medium term will become the main destination for Chilean fruit. In 2017/18 Chile shipped almost 386,000 tonnes of fresh fruit to China, an increase of 66 per cent on the previous season. Cherries led the charge, making up 41 per cent of the total, followed by table grapes, plums, nectarines, kiwifruit, avocados and apples...

[Fruitnet.com/Asiafruit; 5 September 2019]

Apeel runs mandarin test in UK

Following regulatory approval from the EU Commission in June, Apeel has revealed that it is now running a limited-time test of its plant-derived solution for mandarins, supplied by La Calera Peru, with retailers including Asda and corresponding import partners such as IPL...Apeel is a plant-derived, water-based coating that slows the rate of spoilage, and is composed of materials that exist in the peels, seeds, and pulp of all the fruits and vegetables we already eat. Applying Apeel can double to triple the shelf life of many types of fresh produce, which reduces food waste from farm to retail shelf to consumers at home. "As a true innovator and sustainability leader, Asda is our first UK retail partner to demonstrate its commitment to fighting the global food waste crisis, starting with Apeel mandarins that stay fresh much longer," said Gordon Robertson, chief revenue officer at Apeel Sciences. "This commercial test will be the next step in validating Apeel's ability to make an impact on reducing food waste in stores and for consumers, with the goal of Apeel produce arriving on shelves at Asda and other retailers across Europe."...

[Fruitnet.com/Eurofruit; 4 September 2019]

Australia: First mobile pest surveillance units to be deployed nationwide

Australia will soon deploy numerous mobile pest surveillance units around the country in order to provide industries with vital information in real-time...This project is led by Hort Innovation, through funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture as part of its Rural R&D for Profit program, as well with support from 17 partner organizations. The sentinel includes a suite of smart surveillance traps that capture airborne fungal spores and insects and reference them against information including GPS, temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction to provide real-time data on pests and diseases in a particular region. That data will then be fed real-time into a cloud-based system for storage and downstream analysis, and will be distributed to producers, governments and industry groups in the form of immediate alerts, general reports and an iMapPESTS user dashboard to support fast, informed and collaborative decision-making.

[Freshfruitportal.com; 10 September 2019]

Spanish citrus production expected to fall, especially clementines

The Spanish citrus campaign is about to start. In the Region of Valencia, the main producing area, it is estimated that the volume could be around 30% lower than last year. "Some plantations record declines of up to 50% and others of 20%, depending on the area and varieties. For now, there is no official harvest estimation for oranges and clementines, but there are talks about a possible 30% drop," says Juan J. Sanjuan, Commercial Director of Vicente Giner, a Valencian company that sells around 100 million kilos of oranges and mandarins per campaign. "Last year, there was an abundant harvest and therefore, citrus fruits remained longer on the trees. As a result, these are more tired and less fruitful in this new campaign. There will therefore be a greater amount of large sizes compared to last season and a similar or even better quality," says the commercial director. The expert also warns that the production decline could be less remarkable than previously thought. "Last year, there was a lot of fruit of unmarketable calibers, but this year, a larger share of the harvest can be used for fresh marketing. "The earliest mandarins are the Satsumas, for which a drop in the production is also expected, although not as big as that of the clementines. "There is increasingly less fruit available in the free market and the producers now selling their crops do so looking for higher prices that will guarantee profits," says Juan J. Sanjuan.

[Freshplaza.com; 11 September 2019]