

Global Citrus Scan (2019_28)

(John Edmonds 20 September 2019)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Thai Rush for Australian mandarins

Thai consumers have snapped up more than 100 tonnes of Australian mandarins in six days on the back of a new promotional campaign. The campaign was launched by Thai hypermarket Tesco Lotus and Austrade with support from the Queensland Citrus Exporters Group. The success of the campaign has been attributed, in part, to the timing of the mandarin season in Australia, which enables them to hit the shelves in Thailand during major Chinese festivals like the Hungry Ghost and the Vegetarian Festival. The Australian mandarin campaign will run until 2 October at around 2,000 Tesco Lotus stores across Thailand. Thailand is the second-largest market for Australian mandarins after China, with around 7,500 tonnes of exports in 2018. Austrade's Bangkok team has been working closely with Australia's citrus industry and major retailers in Thailand on different initiatives, such as buyer visits to Australia, retail staff trainings and in-store promotions. These activities have helped propel interest in Australian mandarins and resulted in more leading Thai retailers actively seeking the produce to sell in their stores.

[Fruitnet.com/Asiafruit; 19 September 2019]

Expected drop for Sicilian lemons and tangerines destined for the processing industry

Forecasts for the Sicilian citrus fruit campaign are not exactly positive... "With the exception of blonde oranges and grapefruits, which are in line with the previous season, the 2019 Sicilian citrus fruit campaign will see a 20-30% drop in production, especially when it comes to lemons and tangerines," explains Salvatore Imbesi, consultant at Ortogel... Lemons are experiencing the same problems as blood oranges, i.e. the weather has affected blossoming. According to Ortogel forecasts, there will be 20-30% fewer lemons available. Tangerines suffered from the lack of water in April and May and from the adverse weather of the following months, so a 30% drop in production has been estimated...

[Fresh Plaza; 18 September 2019]

Citrus production in Spain to fall by 17%

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has held a meeting with the citrus sector in Madrid to announce the production prospects for the campaign that started on September 1, as well as the data on citrus imports into the European Union and the declarations from the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) on varieties and planting year of the trees. The meeting started with the Ministry expressing its concern for those affected by the recent storms, whose impact is still being analyzed. The citrus production in the 2019/2020 campaign is estimated at 6.27 million tons, which is 17% less than last year and 8% below the average of the last 5 campaigns. This figure is an approximation and is subject to revision, given the likely impact of the recent storms. As for the citrus imports, the volumes imported into the EU in the previous campaign were lower than those of the previous season, mostly as a result of a high production in Spain...

[Fresh Plaza; 18 September 2019]

Juice bar makes bioplastic cups from orange peel

International design and innovation office, Carlo Ratti Associati, has developed an experimental orange squeezer that 3D-prints bioplastic cups from orange peels. This project, called "Feel the Peel" was completed in partnership with global energy company Eni. The aim was to bring circularity to everyday life. The juice bar turns squeezed oranges into a filament that is dried, milled, and converted into a bioplastic by combining the substance with polylactic acid. The plastic is then printed into recyclable cups that can be used to drink fresh orange juice. The 3.1-metre-tall prototype, topped with a dome filled with 1,500 oranges, will start touring public spaces around Italy over the coming months. "The principle of circularity is a must for today's objects," said CRA founding partner and MIT director of city lab Carlo Ratti which designed the system which makes bioplastic cups from orange peel..

[Freshplaza.com; 13 September 2019]

Chile sees much lower prices on higher volumes

...With August being the height of the season, Chile's lemon exporters usually wind down their activities in September. This year, however, it looks like the season came a bit early, sending 21.7m kilograms in July - more than twice the amount that was exported in 2018. August is already seeing a decrease in volume, but not too much lower than the same time period the previous season... In prices, the differences between the two seasons are more pronounced. In July - perhaps reflecting volumes - the pricing was almost half of what we were seeing the previous year... In August, where volumes were already lower than the previous year, the gap in pricing between last year and this year further increased, setting the highest price we have seen in the last four years against the lowest.

[Freshfruitportal.com; 10 September 2019]