Global Citrus Scan (2019_35)

(John Edmonds 15 November 2019) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Spanish stars align in Asia

Spanish exporters are predicting a growth in exports to India and Singapore with recent developments set to facilitate more trade. A new Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Spain and Singapore will come into force on 30 November while India has removed fumigation requirements for Spanish fruits. Speaking at the World Fresh Forum at Fruit Attraction 2019, Amit Gidwani, managing director of Indian importer GT Fruitech, said although Spanish fruits account for less than 1 per cent of India's fruit imports, there is room for growth. "Spanish fruits previously had to be fumigated with methyl bromide, which reduces shelf-life, but with the removal of the requirement we expect to see a surge of fruit imports from Spain," Gidwani said…However, he cautioned that exporters need to research the market thoroughly before committing to increased shipments.

[Fruitnet.com/Asiafruit; 8 November 2019]

Average citrus prices in week 44 of 2019

The citrus campaign in Andalusia will be marked by a lower production; however, this factor, together with the decline in the harvest in Greece and Morocco, suggests that there won't be a repeat of the price crisis that severely hit the sector in the previous campaign. In general, the 2019/20 citrus campaign is starting with optimal average prices for premium fruit…The average prices reached by citrus fruits as of the date of the report (week 44 of 2019) are higher than those recorded in the same week of 2018, with the exception of lemons, although their average value is on the rise…

[Freshplaza.com; 14 November 2019]

"Sky-high mandarin prices…"

The lower supply of Spanish mandarins is evident on the market. "It is actually one of the few positive products on the current import market," states Jan Thur of the Dutch company, Marni Fruit. "Mandarin prices are between €12 and €15. This is truly exceptional. We have not experienced anything like this in recent years." "Despite the high prices, demand is good. The considerably less overseas product on the market contributes to this…"I do, however, expect the market to hold for the time being. Morocco will come onto the market with mandarins soon…Prices will, of course, drop a little, but prospects look good." "The orange market is also stable. Prices of between €11 and €13 are being paid. There are fewer smaller sizes available. There is a limited supply of South African oranges on the market. I am also not expecting too much competition right away from the Greek and Moroccan products," says the importer. "The lemon offer is currently being dominated by Spanish Primafiori lemons…

[Freshplaza.com; 14 November 2019]

Greening has devastated Florida citrus, but some growers are increasingly hopeful

As some economists question the viability of Florida's iconic citrus industry, there are local growers who call themselves increasingly hopeful. Louis Schacht is one of them…Family-owned Schacht Groves has been in business since the 1950's. Recent decades have not been kind to citrus, neither state-wide or on the Treasure Coast, home to world famous Indian River grapefruit. "Obviously we're still growing grapefruit," he said. "It's just a completely different industry at this point. The state crop has gone from 40 million boxes, down to four," Schacht said. "Most industries would call that a collapse."…Since 2004, the number of citrus growers state-wide dropped from 7,000 to just over 2,000. It's estimated 90 percent of the state's groves are infected with the bacterium causing greening…Yet in spite of the almost unbelievable contraction, citrus, at $9 billion is still the state's second biggest industry. Schacht said growers have had to adapt their cultivation practices…"The cost to grow fruit has gone up pretty much exponentially." But Schacht said among growers, he actually believes sentiment may have bottomed out. He sees more optimism these days. Schacht said the industry will likely never be as big as it once was, but he expects it to survive.

[Freshplaza.com; 13 November 2019]

Chilean lemons see record export volumes

As the Chilean lemon season comes to an end, export volumes have broken a historic record. President of the Chilean Citrus Committee Juan Enrique Ortúzar, told FreshFruitPortal.com that the country exported 90,500 metric tons (MT), a growth of 2.5% year-on-year. Ortúzar explained that the season's prices struggled when volumes were at their peak as the industry saw tough competition. The U.S. remains the main market for exports, with a 62% share. Behind the U.S. is Japan with 22% and Europe with 8%. "In the future our focus will be on China. We have our eyes on China to distribute part of our exports that usually go to the U.S.," said Ortúzar…For the Citrus Committee, one of the main reasons Chilean lemons are so well received in the U.S. is because of the Systems Approach protocol, which was implemented in April 2018. "It is a great benefit that the fruit no longer needs to be fumigated with methyl bromide"…

[Freshfruitportal.com; 11 November 2019]