

Global Citrus Scan (2020_5)

(John Edmonds 13 February 2020)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Citrus Growers Association calls on President to address port challenges

The Citrus Growers Association (CGA) calls on President Ramaphosa to provide an update on government's efforts to address the serious challenges at South African ports in his upcoming State of the Nation Address. This follows the commitment he made at a Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry business meeting last October. On that occasion, he said that he would meet with Transnet executives on a monthly basis to monitor what was being done to improve the dire situation at many of the country's ports. Ongoing problems, including aging and out of service infrastructure, staff shortages, prolonged industrial strike action and unnecessary red tape have proven a nightmare for fresh produce exporters. The citrus industry, for example, exported 126 million cartons of citrus fruit to over 100 countries in 2019, bringing in over R20 billion in export revenue and supporting 120 000 jobs...It is estimated that inefficiencies at the Port of Durban alone is costing the economy R6 million on an average day and R10 million on a bad day. It is clear that immediate action is needed from the government if they hope to turn around the current situation at the ports, so that further job and revenue losses can be prevented, says CGA...

[Freshplaza.com; 12 February 2020]

Peruvian citrus exports are expected to increase in 2020

The general manager of the Association of Citrus Producers of Peru (Procitrus), Sergio del Castillo Valderrama, stated that Peruvian citrus exports would exceed 200,000 tons this year, growing by 5% compared to the 190,000 tons shipped in 2019. He also noted that this year the production of mandarins would recover compared to that of 2019 when there was less fruit due to this fruit's natural cycles...they expected to open the markets of India, the Philippines, and Vietnam for Peruvian citrus this year. The main citrus fruits that Peru exports are mandarins, which account for 80% of these shipments (approximately 160,000 tons)...

[Freshplaza.com; 12 February 2020]

Chinese Shatang tangerines experience enormous sales pressure

A wide variety of Chinese industries are affected by the outbreak of the corona virus. The loss is disastrous. The Chinese citrus industry is also affected. Take the sales of Shatang tangerines for example. Market demand was already in decline and the epidemic makes this situation even worse. Buyers from northern China who travel south to purchase Shatang tangerines find the roads blocked. The price of Shatang tangerines already dropped by 30% or so...Many orchards have not yet harvested their tangerines because the number of visiting traders is too small. Furthermore, the manpower to harvest the tangerines is hard to come by because of the epidemic. Few people are willing to go out to work and risk exposure.

[Freshplaza.com; 12 February 2020]

Argentine lemon exports to US estimated to reach 30,000 tons in 2020

Fresh lemon production for MY 2019/2020 is forecast at 1.6 million tons, down 11% from 2018/19, as trees cyclically lower production in response to a heavy blossom the prior marketing year... MY 2019/2020 lemon exports are forecast at 300,000 tons, up 25% from 2018/19 primarily due to lower global supplies, reduced domestic demand for processing and expanded export market opportunities...

[Freshplaza.com; 11 February 2020]

Florida Citrus Forecast: Grapefruit Up, Oranges Down

The 2019–2020 citrus crop forecast released Feb. 11 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) showed changes for Florida orange and grapefruit production levels. The February forecast for Florida oranges is 2 million boxes lower than last month's figures. However, if realized, the Florida all-orange forecast of 72 million boxes will be up slightly from last season's final production..The forecast for Florida grapefruit production, at 5.9 million boxes, is up 9 percent from the January figure. The increase of 500,000 boxes is for red grapefruit; white grapefruit is unchanged at 900,000 boxes. White and red grapefruit sizes are above average. The forecast for tangerine and tangelos is unchanged from the January forecast at 1.05 million boxes, but 6 percent more than last season's utilization of 990,000 boxes...

[citrusindustry.net; 11 February 2020]