

Global Citrus Scan (2020_6)

(John Edmonds 21 February 2020)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Egypt tops list of countries exporting oranges

For the second year in a row, Egypt has topped the list of countries that export oranges, with exports totalling 1.7 million tons in 2019, accounting for 38 percent of the global exports of oranges in 2019. This is according to numbers from the ASWAQ Financial Company. Egypt planted upwards of 12 million orange trees with a production capacity of 3.4 million tons of oranges, a three percent increase when compared to numbers in 2018. Aswaq explained that farmers had boosted efforts to plant orange trees to meet global demand for the citrus fruit, taking advantage of the climate in Egypt, which is conducive to growing orange trees. Egypt increased the orange trees planted by 44 percent, or 1.05 million tons, during the past ten years, compared to 2.4 million tons recorded in 2009. Spain, which ranked first among countries exporting oranges before 2018, came in second in 2019...

[Freshplaza.com; 21 February 2020]

First conviction of imprisonment for exploitation of the Orri mandarin without authorization

The Criminal Court number 12 of Valencia has sentenced a farmer to a penalty of three months and one day in prison, with the accessory of special disqualification for the right of passive suffrage during the time of the sentence, as well as the payment of the costs, for the illegal exploitation of the protected vegetable variety "Orri", on a plot of Benifairó de la Valldigna. The ruling came after the actions taken by The Enforcement Organization (TEO), an exclusive master licensee of the protected vegetable variety "Orri" in Spain and Portugal...The damages encrypted by the Mercantile TEO have been set at a total of 60 euros per tree as a fee...Since 2016, TEO has initiated a total of 115 legal...By communities, 85.4% of the cases correspond to the Valencian Community, which would affect some 46,000 trees...

[citrusindustry.net; 21 February 2020]

Chilean fruits on the move in China

Some of the disruptions caused by COVID-19 in China may be starting to ease with Asoex reporting an increased movement of its fruit in the country...Ronald Bown, president of Asoex, said this trend was occurring in both primary and secondary markets in China. "In recent days there has been a greater movement of Chilean fruit in secondary markets in China such as Changsha, Zhengzhou, Chengdu, Chongqing, among others," Brown said...

[Asiafruit; 20 February 2020]

CCM seeks USDA support

California Citrus Mutual (CCM) president, Casey Creamer, has called on the United States Trade Representative (USTR) and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) for greater support, as retaliatory trade tariffs continue to impact growers' bottom lines. Creamer congratulated the administration on the completion of the Phase One trade deal with China but emphasised the need for citrus to be prioritised...According to reports, navel sales volumes are down 36 per cent in 2019 compared to the previous three-year average...Creamer said additional citrus purchases would be beneficial for Chinese consumers dealing with the outbreak, and would assist grower returns, which are currently well below the cost of production.

[Asiafruit; 21 February 2020]

US: Lemon markets expected to become stronger

Argentina may be poised to ship more lemons into the U.S. come May. Currently, domestic production on lemons comes largely from California on both the West and East Coasts. This is because there are some concerns with crops from other countries currently producing lemons. "Turkey is basically done with lemons. They had a very bad crop of Interdonato variety...Now they have a good crop of the late variety, Verna. But because of Turkey, there's more demand from European customers. So they'll finish their inventory sooner than normal."...California will also likely finish up lemons earlier than expected given the last USDA report that predicted a 16 percent reduction of lemons out of the state...As for those Southern Hemisphere supplies, Argentina looks to have a good crop. "But it's not as good as last year," says Elortondo. "That's good because last year they had a lot, particularly of the big sizes, so it wasn't a very good market." Chile will also ship supplies, though there are issues with certain production areas in that country as well, the extent of which are currently undetermined...

[Freshplaza.com; 19 February 2020]