

Global Citrus Scan (2020_15)

(John Edmonds 29 May 2020)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

This is the year for early navels to shine

In the Northern Hemisphere orange stocks are running short as Egypt's Valencia crop is down and the Spanish harvest was hampered by Covid-induced labour issues, which has nicely set the stage for a commodity which has been somewhat maligned in recent years; the early navel...Whereas in previous years South African early navels have been overshadowed by late Valencias from the Northern Hemisphere, this year they can't stay ahead of orders, says Gert Upton, senior marketing and sales manager at Schoonbee Landgoed, situated in the Senwes area of Limpopo Province where the majority of South Africa's navel orchards are. "Last week we received overseas orders for 2,900 pallets of oranges – that's 235,000 15kg cartons. We pack 800,000 oranges in a season. We could have packed our entire crop in three weeks!" They are currently packing oranges for 24 hours of the day in their large two-lane citrus Kameelkop packing facility... "Every single country in the Northern Hemisphere is short on oranges and busy finishing up on current stock...While early navels are not the preferred variety, it will certainly do until the first Turkey Valencias start in about two weeks, Gert says. "There's even more of a hunger for Valencias than for navels because Valencias travel better, their colour is better, and their juice percentage is higher. It is the preferred commodity." ...The first South African early navels have arrived in Europe, but at Schoonbee they started packing navels two weeks ago. They were finishing up with lemons to avoid meeting the big volumes from the Eastern Cape. They have removed all of their Satsumas, enabling an earlier start to lemons for them this year... "We just have to keep the momentum and make sure oranges remain a top priority for our clients while still maintaining realistic price levels."...

[Freshplaza.com; 26 May 2020]

Chile achieves milestone with inaugural shipment of mandarin export to China

Chile has carried out its first-ever citrus shipments to China, exporting a consignment of mandarins to the major markets which officially opened to that south American country at few days ago. This week 23 metric tons of clementine-type mandarins are on their way to Shanghai and will be among the first Chilean citrus to reach the market...Juan Enrique Ortuzar of Chile's Citrus Committee said that it was unclear what volumes would be sent to China in this inaugural season, but he predicted it would be less than 10% of exports...

[Freshfruitportal; 29 May 2020]

Vietnam opens up to Uruguayan citrus

Vietnam has opened its market to Uruguayan citrus, as confirmed by Chancellor Ernesto Talvi. This opening is the result of efforts initiated in the previous period of government and continued in the current period.

[Freshplaza.com; 25 May 2020]

Unifrutti has thousands of counterfeit lemon cartons destroyed in China

Two weeks ago two containers about to depart for Bahrain with Chinese lemons packed in counterfeit Unifrutti cartons, were confiscated at Shekou Harbour, China. All 3,200 cartons were destroyed at the cost of the suspects, who also agreed to a fine and are now being investigated by Unifrutti's legal representatives in China...These lemons also come onto the market at lower prices and with dubious MRL (maximum residue level) compliance while Unifrutti is committed to low MRLs...The lemon cartons include the usual South African contact details, even reproducing the production unit code of an actual Unifrutti lemon grower in South Africa...A number of South African companies have been subject to misappropriation of their packaging in China and they have approached the Fresh Produce Exporters' Forum (FPEF), who has taken up the matter in South Africa with the Department of International Relations and Cooperation and the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition as well as the South African embassies in the relevant countries to potentially pursue criminal charges. FPEF has noted the increase in cases of the unlawful use of the logos and the brands of established and large South African exporters in some countries, to the detriment of the image, profitability and sustainability of the South African industry...

[Freshplaza.com; 29 May 2020]

Spain: Green light to standard lemon and grapefruit spread

Ailimpo expects to allocate 4.77 million euros to boost promotional activities in the sector, as well as research, development and technological innovation tasks to improve the lemon and grapefruit value chain...In this context, Ailimpo plans to achieve a collection of 4.77 million euros in the total of the five campaigns (954,000 euros for each season). Of this amount, around 80% will go to boost communication and promotion activities for lemon and grapefruit while the rest of the proceeds will be dedicated to research, development and innovation tasks to improve their value chain products.

[fruittoday.com; 28 May 2020]