

Global Citrus Scan (2020_20)

(John Edmonds 13 July 2020)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Solution found to Citrus Greening Disease

Scientists at the University of California, Riverside (UCR) have found the first substance capable of controlling Citrus Greening Disease, which has devastated citrus farms in Florida and also threatens California...A release issued by UCR explains the new treatment effectively kills the bacterium causing the disease with a naturally occurring molecule found in wild citrus relatives. The molecule, an antimicrobial peptide, offers numerous advantages over the antibiotics currently used to treat the disease. UCR geneticist Hailing Jin, who discovered the cure after a five-year search, explained that unlike antibiotic sprays, the peptide is stable even when used outdoors in high heat, easy to manufacture, and safe for humans. "This peptide is found in the fruit of greening-tolerant Australian finger limes, which has been consumed for hundreds of years," said Jin...She was able to isolate the genes that contribute to this innate immunity. One of these genes produces the peptide, which she then tested over the course of two years. Improvement was soon visible...One of the added benefits of the peptide is that it only needs to be reapplied a few times per year, meaning it is highly cost effective for growers. It can also be developed into a vaccine-like solution to protect young healthy plants from infection, as it is able to induce the plant's innate immunity to the bacteria. The peptide can be applied by injection or foliage spray, and it moves systemically through plants and remains stable, which makes the effect of the treatment stronger...Brian Suh, director of technology commercialisation in UCR's Office of Technology Partnerships, highlighted while there's a global need for a cure to HLB, it's particularly important in California, which produces up to 80 per cent of the fresh citrus in the US...

[Eurofruit; 10 July 2020]

Challenges combine for Turkish citrus

Although Covid-19 poses additional challenges and costs...A bigger worry, however, is simply the weather, according to Ayşe Özler, director of marketing and sales at grower-exporter Özler Ziraat..."From mid-May, Turkey suffered extreme climatic conditions in all citrus areas," says Özler. "First, a heat wave saw temperatures rise to 45-50 degrees; then the temperature suddenly dropped by 15 degrees. Many regions and agricultural products have been badly affected, especially in citrus areas. We are not yet sure how big the losses are, but we expect significantly lower yields for all citrus varieties, especially early lemons."...

[Eurofruit; 3 July 2020]

Peruvian fruit exports hit new record

Peru set a new record for fruit exports in the first five months of 2020 in spite of the challenges of Covid-19...The biggest increase was in citrus exports, which rose 41 per cent overall to US\$62m. Mandarins registered a 50 per cent increase in shipments to US\$54m on the back of production increases and strong market demand.

The main destinations for Peruvian fruits are the US (40 per cent) and Europe (38 per cent). Exports to these markets increased 8 per cent and 18 per cent respectively.

[Eurofruit; 10 July 2020]

"Egyptian orange export to China ends one month early this season"

The Chinese fruit market is slowly improving as the Covid-19 pandemic is brought under control. However, the profit margin is much smaller for importer traders in comparison with last year." This is according to Mr. Li, a spokesperson for an international transport agency. "The overall import volume of oranges significantly declined this year. Restaurants and drink shops closed down for two or three months, which significantly reduced market demand for oranges. The Egyptian oranges are often used to make juice from, which means that Chinese market demand for Egyptian oranges quickly dropped. The oranges that already arrived were difficult to sell...The sales season of Egyptian oranges often continued until late June or July in previous years, but this year the season already ended in early June. There were virtually no Egyptian oranges available." When asked about the permission obtained by Chile for orange export to the Chinese market, Mr. Li replied, "We do not yet have clients who import oranges from Chile. Most of the oranges in the market come from Egypt and South Africa...Buyers do not easily change the source of their supply, because they are unfamiliar with the product quality of a new supplier..."

[Freshplaza.com; 10 July 2020]