

Global Citrus Scan (2020_22)

(John Edmonds 23 July 2020)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

South African citrus shows resilience

Greater use of conventional reefer vessels and rail freight has helped the industry to ship record volumes of fruit at this stage of the season, despite the port disruptions endured as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. After 20 years of containers dominating as the shipping mode for fruit from South Africa, conventional reefers have returned to make an impact in a year when value chains are challenged... Contrary to container line concerns that this policy would hurt their volumes, that has not been the case. "As it is we have a big crop and we are concerned about sufficient container space being available to accommodate us," said Mitchell Brooke of the Citrus Growers Association. "We certainly need a combination of the two modes of shipping, not only this season with its unique challenges, but also in future."... "In citrus we are dealing with a record crop and despite the additional problems we have this year it shows just how united we are and our commitment and resilience to deal with these matters. We have so far shipped a record number of containers," said one leading grower.

[Eurofruit; 20 July 2020]

Turkey: "Export restrictions on nectarine, potato and lemon should be removed"

Union of Turkish Chambers of Agriculture (TZOB) announced that the export quotas on onions, potatoes and lemons left producers in the lurch and called for the removal of these quotas. "...Lemons are wasted in the stores. Our farmers are on the verge of stopping the production... Due to export quotas and decreased demands, the quality of lemons in the storages dropped significantly. If the products cannot be marketed, the losses will be greater." the statement added...

[Freshplaza.com; 20 July 2020]

Japan: Rain cause significant agriculture damage in Japanese prefectures

...recent torrential rain disasters have caused a total of about 59.39 billion yen (about \$550 million) worth of damage to the agriculture, forestry and fisheries industries in eight prefectures... In the town of Ashikita, Kumamoto Prefecture, one of the largest citrus fruit production sites in the nation, the damage was especially serious...

[Freshplaza.com; 20 July 2020]

South Africa lifts veto on Spanish ports for citrus exports

...The South African authorities have released a statement saying that they will "amend the additional declarations for the phytosanitary certificates that were issued during June 2020 for the South African citrus fruits that were intended for Spanish ports."... It was said to be striking that Spain requested additional declarations, in addition to those agreed with the other EU Member States. This situation has been causing serious damage to importing and exporting companies and freight forwarders in the port of Algeciras, where this market has become especially important in recent years.

[Freshplaza.com; 20 July 2020]

"The situation in some Spanish ports is very uncomfortable"

...Federcitrus, the Argentinian Federation of Citrus, is unhappy about the fact that the analyzes of the controls in Spanish ports have not been presented. "The situation in some Spanish ports such as Cartagena, where black spot interceptions have been reported without documents showing the result of PCR analyzes, which are mandatory for the accreditation of a quarantine pest, is very uncomfortable," says José Carbonell, president of the federation... We simply want to see the evidence," says Carbonell...

[Freshplaza.com; 17 July 2020]

Citrus Australia criticises border ban

A newly enacted border zone along the Murray River, aimed at curbing the spread of Covid-19 from Victoria to New South Wales (NSW), could have a disastrous impact on the Australian citrus industry, which is approaching its peak harvest period. Citrus Australia chief executive, Nathan Hancock, took to social media platform Twitter, to express his dismay at the NSW health department, and in particular, health and medical research minister Brad Hazzard... Under the new restrictions, seasonal workers have been expressly forbidden from crossing the border to pick fruit on farms where they have been working for weeks. This is despite agriculture being deemed as a critical service by the NSW government...

[Eurofruit; 22 July 2020]