

Global Citrus Scan (2020_28)

(John Edmonds 9 October 2020)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

The World Citrus Association «ruins and impoverishes» Spanish producers

The agricultural organizations ASAJA Murcia, ASAJA Alicante and AVA-ASAJA have valued the World Citrus Association as "very harmful" and consider that "it is intolerable to make agreements with countries that act unfairly and committing 'social dumping' against the interests of our sector" ...As explained by the Secretary General of ASAJA Murcia, Alfonso Gálvez Caravaca, "this international alliance endangers the profitability of our citrus productions, since agreements with our competitors such as South Africa, Egypt or Morocco cannot be carried out. they are fighting unfairly before the passivity of the European Union". In addition, Juan de Dios Hernández, member of the Board of Directors of ASAJA Murcia, stressed that "these countries want to condemn us to absolute ruin, as well as displace us from the main international markets, so we understand that this type of alliance is a serious threat to the whole of our sector" ...

[fruittoday.com; 7 October 2020]

"There is more clementine production this year, but an abundance of small sizes"

The clementine campaign has started early in the Spanish provinces of Castellon and Tarragona, and we'll still have to wait a few weeks for the first oranges to start being harvested. The clementine market is quiet at the start, but things are expected to start improving as overseas fruit stocks run out. "This year we are starting between 7 and 10 days earlier, depending on the varieties," says the citrus producer and marketer Alfons Royo, manager of Royo Fruits...At this time, although the prices for the first early clementines are similar to last year's, the market is a bit stagnant and the demand is not that great, according to the manager of Royo Fruits. "It appears there are still some mandarins from the southern hemisphere in the European markets, so large European distribution chains will start changing their programs to work with Spanish citrus fruits after next week."...

[FreshPlaza.com; 8 October 2020]

"Demand for Turkish Interdonato lemons is very strong"

Turkish fresh fruit exporter Aksun is fully engulfed in the lemon season. According to marketing manager Akin Soyleyen the Interdonato variety is not widely available at the moment: "The lemon season has just started for us, with the Interdonato variety this week...Currently the markets are a bit speculative as some customers still have South African lemons in stock, whereas some opt to go for early Egypt lemons despite them being low in supply. China is still an option for Far East Asian markets as well....The most important market for the Turkish lemons is Russia by a far margin. A total of 65.000 tons of lemons has been exported to Russia in 2019, accounting for 27 per cent of Turkey's total lemon export. This is followed by Iraq (12 per cent) and Saudi Arabia (8 per cent). As this year Saudi Arabia is closed for Turkish products as we speak; these volumes will have to find another market to land...We are waiting for China to open up soon. If this is realized, we think there is a very big opportunity for us in China, even though our season clash with China when it comes to lemons. There is a big demand from Chinese customers for other citrus commodities and not only for lemons."

[FreshPlaza.com; 1 October 2020]

Japan's fresh fruit imports slide

Japan's fresh fruit imports during the month of August 2020 dropped by 10 per cent compared to the volume imported in August 2019....In the citrus category, the quantity of lemons imported to Japan during August 2020 reached 6,559 tonnes, a 21 per cent reduction compared to August 2019. Chile is the primary origin for lemons to Japan, shipping 5,015 tonnes of the aforementioned total. Moriya indicated Chilean lemon shipments are recovering from a sluggish period during March through May, and volume has picked up in September and October, with total import volume for the entirety of the year likely to reach the same level as 2019...

[fruitnet.com/asiafruit; 2 October 2020]