

Global Citrus Scan (2020_29)

(John Edmonds 26 October 2020)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Federal grant helps Florida's HLB fight

University of Florida (UF) researchers are hoping to discover new methods to help citrus growers fight citrus greening (or Huanglongbing/HLB) disease with the support of recently awarded federal grants.

Three teams of scientists from UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) received nearly US\$45m in US Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds to study new ways to manage the invasive insect causing millions of damage to Florida's citrus crops.

[fruitnet.com/asiafruit; 23 October 2020]

Egyptian orange export volumes surpass those of Spain and South Africa

According to Cairo officials, Egypt has become the world's largest exporter of oranges by volume, surpassing rivals Spain and South Africa. Egypt exported almost 1.8 million tonnes of oranges in 2019, landing in first position just ahead of Spain, according to the International Trade Centre, a joint agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations. Revenue from exports was around \$660 million. Due to COVID disruptions earlier this year, the volumes exported will be less than those of 2019. "Global orange consumption has grown and Egypt has been able to capture the increase in the market," Mohamed Abdel Hady, an orange grower and exporter who heads the Citrus Committee at the Agricultural Export Council, a business association, told usa-vision.com. "Egypt has the advantage of a cheap currency which means our prices are competitive. Oranges have made a jump in income for farmers so they are planting more."

Tom Leenheer, commercial director at Van Ooijen Citrus, a Dutch fruit and vegetable wholesalers, says in recent years he has been "seeing more and more Egyptian oranges on the market. The price/quality [equation] is good." It is also noticeable, he adds, that increasing numbers of Egyptian growers were starting their own companies in Holland to trade in orange imports from Egypt.

[FreshPlaza.com; 22 October 2020]

Peruvian citrus exports break the 200,000-ton barrier

Peruvian citrus exports have experienced a notable increase of 32% this year, passing the barrier of 200,000 tons, according to the Association of Citrus Producers of Peru (Procitrus). "By week 40 of this year, Peru had exported 253,000 tons. In the same period of 2019, the country had exported 189,000 tons," said Sergio del Castillo, Procitrus' general manager. Compared to last year's exports, the export volume of Peruvian mandarins has increased by 40%, grapefruit by 24%, oranges by 30%, Tahiti lime by 18%, and Sutil lemon by 15%...The increase in international demand for citrus fruits this season was driven by a change in the global consumption trend as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, Del Castillo added.

were achieved in last year's entire campaign," said Gabriel Amaro, the executive director of AGAP.

[FreshPlaza.com; 21 October 2020]

Mixed fortunes for Turkish citrus

Weather conditions affected early Interdonato lemons, says Akin Söyleyen, marketing manager at exporter Aksun, but increased demand for grapefruit bodes well..."Since the supply of early Interdonato lemons is very low this year, the lemon season has not started with big volumes. That being said, we are still packing lemons at a steady capacity for our long-term customers who run season-long Turkish citrus programmes. AS: On the European market, prices are not at their usual level, with the Spanish lemon season having an influence. As far as I know, the Spanish crop is good, but the sizes are smaller than usual, as they also suffered from insufficient rain. For ASEAN markets, there are still some South African lemons left over from the season. With that in mind and with Turkish prices at a high level, not everyone is eager to take the risk, especially during the current pandemic... We are located in a city with the busiest port in Turkey, especially for reefer equipment. This gives us an immense advantage to deliver fruit on time. Our packhouse is located just 10km outside the port. As of yet, we haven't come across any logistical barriers at the port as a result of Covid. That being said, the opposite is true for air cargo logistics...

[fruitnet.com/eurofruit; 23 October 2020]