

Global Citrus Scan (2020_31)

(John Edmonds 4 December 2020)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Plant-inspired alkaloids protect rice, kiwi and citrus from harmful bacteria

...researchers reporting in ACS' Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry have modified natural plant alkaloids into new compounds that kill bacteria responsible for diseases in rice, kiwi and citrus...Currently, no effective prevention or treatment exists for some plant bacterial diseases, including rice leaf blight, kiwifruit canker and citrus canker...The researchers used a THC alkaloid called eleagnine, which is produced by Russian olive trees and some other plants, as a scaffold. To this framework, they added different chemical groups to make a series of new compounds...The team then tested two compounds on rice, kiwi and citrus plant twigs and leaves and found that the new alkaloids could both prevent and treat bacterial infections. The researchers determined that the compounds worked by increasing levels of reactive oxygen species in the bacteria, which caused the bacterial cells to die.

[eurekalert.org; 2 December 2020]

Pakistan strives for \$210 mln kinnow exports this season

Pakistan exporters have set a target of exporting 350,000 tons of the fruit this season as compared to the 300,000 tons exported last year...Pakistan's total production of kinnow is estimated to be around 2,100,000 tonnes this year; however, the production of exportable quality kinnow is far less. Of the total produce, 75pc consists of B and C grade kinnow that are not up to exportable standards. This is because the orchards are 60 years old and susceptible to various diseases...

[FreshPlaza.com; 3 December 2020]

Egyptian citrus season has started, good quantity of Valencia oranges expected

...According to Wessam Taha, marketing specialist for Egyptian fruit exporter MMA Fresh Produce, the Egyptian exporters will face a challenging season, made harder by the lack of trade fairs: "The Egyptian citrus season has just started and all farmers, packers and exporters are well prepared the best they can be..." Egypt starts with Navel oranges, which has slightly less volumes than we had last year. For Valencia oranges we expect a very good season, with solid quantities and good quality. Demand is always good for Egyptian oranges, but the market is ever-changing, so this year we'll be focusing on a new market; Japan. We feel that the South-East Asian market is the future for our company..."

[FreshPlaza.com; 2 December 2020]

HLB destroys Venezuela's citrus groves

Rafael Cabrera, the president of the Yaracuy Fruit Growers Association, stated in an interview with Fedecámaras Radio that only 5% of the 35,000 hectares planted with citrus in Venezuela continued to exist. As Cabrera explained, the massive reduction in citrus cultivation was due to the Huanglongbing disease, also known as HLB or citrus greening..."One can see a lot of fruits in the market because the industries no longer have the capacity to process these fruits so they are taken to the fresh market, but there is no abundance of fruit," he stressed.

[FreshPlaza.com; 1 December 2020]

"This year, we're expecting 25% more Spanish citrus than last season"

The Spanish citrus season is off to a good start this year. Even though there's still quite a bit of overseas volume on the Belgian market. There's far less uncertainty about this year's harvested volumes too. And about 25% more Spanish citrus is expected than last season. According to Alexander van Orshaegen of Group A. De Witte, the market situation is favorable. "We got off to an excellent start this year. There's a lot of demand. That's despite there being quite a lot of South African product on the market...The oranges from South Africa are still of excellent quality...Unlike last year, Spanish citrus had an excellent growing season..."

[FreshPlaza.com; 3 December 2020]