Global Citrus Scan (2019_33)

(John Edmonds 30 October 2019) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Chinese Navel orange orchards suffer from drought

Ganzhou City in Jiangxi Province is known as the "world's hometown of oranges". This is one of the most important Navel orange production areas in China. The production area is the world's largest in terms of overall surface area devoted to Navel orange production and the third largest in terms of production volume. However, nearly 7 thousand hectares of Navel orange orchards in Xinfeng County, Ganzhou, are suffering from droughts because the temperatures are high and rainfall is insufficient. This year the Navel orange harvest season will begin on November 6th. The Navel oranges on the trees show signs of water shortages as a result of high temperatures and scarce rainfall. The leaves on some trees are withering away. The size of the Navel oranges is also smaller than in previous years.

[Freshplaza.com; 25 October 2019]

"We are re-introducing the white grapefruit into the U.S."

Two-hundred years ago, French native Count Odet Phillipe introduced the grapefruit into Florida. The original grapefruit didn't look like the grapefruit we usually see in stores today: the flesh was white instead of red. The white grapefruit is the original grapefruit, and Veronique and Michel Sallin, owners of IMG Citrus, are reintroducing the fruit into the U.S. Michel explains: "The fruit was originally introduced into Florida by a Frenchman, and we are French too so we felt like it might be part of our mission to the reintroduce the white grapefruit into the U.S. The red grapefruit was actually a mutation of the white grapefruit, and when it was first grown it was seen as a novelty item and people swarmed to it. Then, about 50 years ago the Japanese market discovered the white grapefruit and their demand claimed all the supplies. Florida is the only place in the U.S. where white grapefruit is grown, and is the biggest producer in the world but our entire product has been going to Japan in the past few decades. So, we decided that we were going to prioritize the U.S. market and really focus on selling the fruit locally." IMG Citrus is also looking to supply to Europe in the future, Veronique reveals. She says, "In Europe, the white grapefruit will really be more of a niche product. We're expecting that in countries like the Netherlands, Belgium, and France there will be good demand for the fruit as a specialty item."…Currently, most U.S. retailers sell only the red grapefruit, but Michel and Veronique believe that if the customer is offered the choice between white and red, the overall grapefruit sales will increase. Michel says: "In Japan, retailers will display the white grapefruit next to the red grapefruit, and this creates a really beautiful display that draws the customers in. By giving the customers a choice, you empower them and they will be more likely to purchase the product..."

[Freshplaza.com; 25 October 2019]

Citrus harvest in Spanish province of Cordoba expected to fall by 8 to 15%

The lack of rainfall in the Vega del Guadalquivir is the main factor behind the expected reduction of the citrus harvest in Cordoba, whose campaign is about to start. The official prospect is that the campaign will come to an end with a production totaling 350,047 tons, which is 30,093 less than in the 2018-2019 campaign; an 8% drop…The most common fruit in the province's citrus producing area, where there are about 11,000 hectares of crops, will again be the sweet orange, with 340,780 tons, which is 97.3% of the production. In this case, the estimated drop is slightly higher than 7%. Then we have mandarins, with 5,942 tons and a decrease of more than 40%, and lemons, with only 70 tons and a drop of almost 83%. The exception is grapefruit, which will record a 24.6% growth and remain at 3,028 tons. For his part, the head of the Citrus Sector at Asaja Córdoba, Nicolás González, said that the Council's prospects are actually falling short, since they believe the harvest will fall by around 15%, especially in the case of varieties such as the Navelina, for which the reduction could reach up to 30%...

[Freshplaza.com; 30 October 2019]

Citrus Australia oppose government proposals

The Australian government's proposal to raise fees for export certification has been firmly rejected by Citrus Australia…with chief executive Nathan Hancock calling the potential increases "astonishing". If the proposals were enacted, growers wanting to export fruit would face substantially higher fees, including a 277 per cent increase in tonnage charges across both protocol and non-protocol markets. This would be represented in a price rise from A$1.30 (US$0.89) to A$4.90 (US$3.36) per tonne in protocol markets, and a rise from A$0.65 (US$0.45) to A$2.45 (US$1.68) per tonne in non-protocol markets…Hancock added that the citrus industry does not disagree with cost recovery from the government. However, he said the government needed to provide a detailed explanation of its programme costs to enable a constructive engagement process. "This is particularly important as the Department has a monopoly on export certification so there is no alternative provider for growers to compare," added Hancock.

[fruitnet.com/asiafruit; 30 October 2019]