

season update

This publication has been facilitated by HAL in partnership with Australian Citrus Growers (ACG) and has been funded by the national citrus R&D levy. The Australian Government provides matched funding for all HAL's R&D activities.

MARKETS – DECEMBER 2005 REPORT

The focus for this month has been on Valencia, Marsh grapefruit and lemons. Valencia intake has mainly revolved around what the juice processors can accept, although packers without juice contracts are doing their best to get a return to growers from packing.

Demand in Asian markets has been steady, with prices stable or slightly up. Domestically the market has been slow and prices low. US navels and Chinese navels are increasing in volume, with gassed fruit finishing and better colour and tasting fruit arriving.

Peruvian Minneola tangelos and clementines will be shipped in greater numbers to US next season and this could have some impact on sales of Australian fruit.

Access to China is progressing with the delivery of the protocol and meetings on the work plan continuing. Discussion on the use of Export Efficiency Powers (EEP) or coordinated marketing is also high on the agenda, to ensure the maximum return is gained from this market.

Juice processors have indicated that it is unlikely there will be any demand for early season navels or mandarin, so growers have been advised to thin fruit now rather than harvest it next season. With a decrease in production following the citrus canker outbreak in Florida, there is a possibility for some demand for late season navels once they have achieved good maturity ratios.

VALENCIA

Domestic Similar to last month with the main focus on bags, but carton and loose sales starting. Movement remained slow and prices low as stonefruit comes on stream. With some sheds closing at the end of December, movement from remaining sheds could increase, possibly with some slight price increase as well.

Export Count 113 and smaller class 1 fruit is still highly sought after, and with packouts dropping some price increase was gained by some brands with others staying stable. The markets are steady but not strong and as Northern hemisphere navels and Chinese Mandarins start to find their way into the market there will be a swing away from regreening Australian Valencia. Orders for juice grade Valencia have been stable and there is no expected increase in demand or prices until February

MANDARINS

Domestic Honey Murcotts have just finished with the final lot of stored fruit being moved out.

Export Finished

LEMON

Domestic Some crop is still on the trees but market returns are not covering the price of picking, so packing has stopped.

Export Finished

GRAPEFRUIT

Domestic Limited sales of fruit packed in 3kg bags.

Export Finished

Source: Australian Horticultural Exports Association (AHEA)