

# 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 – APRIL 2006 REPORT

Valencia harvest and packing continued but is expected to finish early May. Fruit quality continues to deteriorate with slightly lower acid levels and juice content.

US navels are in both the export and domestic markets, and demand has improved.

In Hong Kong wholesale market, the selling price for Sunkist Late Lanes counts 56-88; ranges from A\$23 to 32.0 per carton.

Other varieties being packed in Australia this month are Navelinas, Satsumas, lemons and limes, all for the domestic market.

### VALENCIA

#### Domestic

Valencia sales continued predominantly in 3kg bags, with some loose sales. US navels are selling strongly, with news received that fruit was coming in by air to fill the demand. Prices are A\$60.00+/ctn selling.

#### Export

US Late Lane navels are popular now in the Asian market and selling for US\$24.0/ctn for counts 72 and A\$18.0/ctn for count 113. No demand for Australian Valencias for fresh fruit sales due to poor colour and taste, however sales of fruit for juicing continued.

### LEMONS

#### Domestic

Good quality lemons are selling at A\$30-35/ctn back considerably on the previous month.

### LIMES

#### Domestic

Queensland colour has dropped away so preference for southern limes is firm, but volumes are slow. Selling prices A\$15-25/7kg nett ctn.

### SATSUMAS

#### Domestic

Degreened fruit is selling on the market at A\$25-35/9kg nett for class 1 and A\$15-20 for class 2. The colour and taste is quite good for early fruit. The price will come back as fruit competes with Queensland imperials for shelf space.

### NAVELINAS

Queensland Navelinas are selling on the market at A\$35 for counts 48-72, yet count 125's are selling for A\$12.0/ctn, illustrating demand is for large fruit. Fruit from the southern regions will hit the markets in the last week of April.

*Source: Australian Horticultural Exports Association (AHEA)*