

season update

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MARKETS – FEBRUARY 2006 REPORT

After a quiet second half of January and first half of February due to Chinese New Year and the influx of Chinese mandarins, sales of Valencia oranges have resumed to export markets.

The majority of demand is for the medium to smaller sizes of class 1 product and counts 88-113 in juice grade packs.

Contrary to last months report Citrus Growers of South Australia (CGSA) advise there is still almost 50% of the Valencia crop to be harvested. As long as the weather is not too hot, Valencia oranges should remain in a packable condition for export until the end of March and then continue with the domestic markets until the navel oranges harvest begins.

Other varieties moving were lemons and grapefruit, all to the domestic market.

VALENCIA

Domestic

Sales volume was slow but prices remained stable, with most sales being in 3kg bags. Retailers are running promotions in an effort to stimulate more sales.

Export

Sales demand for count 138 class 1 and 2 continues to exceed supply, with customers preferring these sizes. With the greening of fruit sales opportunities are limited against the full colour US navels. Orders for juice grade Valencia remain stable with no price change or increase in demand.

LEMONS

Domestic

With only small volumes of summer lemons being harvested, fruit is been targeted to the highest price domestic markets. Prices in Sydney were under pressure due to increasing volumes of Queensland fruit Large fruit is packed in cartons with small fruit being packed in 1kg bags.

Export

N/A

LIMES

Domestic

With only limited volumes sales; prices were firm providing growers with high returns. |

Export

N/A

Source: Australian Horticultural Exports Association (AHEA)