

season update

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MARKETS – MARCH 2006 REPORT

Valencia harvest and packing continued except from a couple of interruptions with rain. Apart from a one-week rush, export sales remained steady. Fruit quality deteriorated slightly and closer quality checks (QC) were carried out.

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

United States (US) navel oranges are in both the export and domestic markets but sales are not strong and the prices are coming down.

In Taiwan, at retail level, Sunkist navels count 138 are selling at A\$0.20/piece. In the Hong Kong wholesale market, the selling price for Sunkist navels counts 56-88 ranges from A\$21-30/carton.

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

VALENCIA

Domestic

The heavy regreening of the Valencia has been the main impediment to increased sales this month. US navels are still on offer but are not in direct competition with Australian Valencias.

Sales volume was slow but prices remained stable, with most sales being in 3kg bags.

Export

Smaller counts (138-163) continued to be in demand, but with limited supply there were only a few orders that could be satisfied. For one week there was a desperate demand for count 113 class 1 by air as US navel arrivals were delayed into Asia.

Steady demand continued for juice grade into all markets, with prices remaining stable. Juice analysis checks are now more frequent as the season is completed, to ensure only suitable quality fruit is sent to export markets.

LEMONS

Domestic

Good quality lemons are selling at A\$50-55/ctn as demand exceeds supply.

Export

N/A

LIMES

Domestic

Queensland volumes are strong and has bought the prices back, to around A\$5-20. With only limited volumes sales and prices were firm providing growers with high returns.

Export

N/A

Source: Australian Horticultural Exports Association (AHEA)