

# season update

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## MARKETS – MAY 2006 REPORT

Valencia harvest and packing has all but finished; Riverland growers expect to be completed shortly, while growers in the Riverina still have a significant volume of Valencias to be harvested.

Navel harvest commenced early May with Navelina in degreening rooms for domestic marketing. Colour and maturity are up to two weeks ahead of last season, packing for the United States (US) export market commenced in Week 21 for a small volume of natural colour and select picked Navelina and Leng navel oranges.

US Late Lane Navels are in both the export and domestic markets but the season is coming to an end.

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

Sales in China for US grade 1 Late Lanes count 72 are at A\$40.0/carton.

Other varieties being packed in Australia this month are Clementines, lemons and limes.

### **LEMONS**

#### **Domestic**

Good quality lemons are selling at A\$20-25/carton back considerably on the previous month.

#### **Export**

Opportunities in Japan are being considered in light of strong prices. Volumes of lemons from South Africa and Chile, as well as Mexico, are coming in the next two weeks and are expected to exceed the demand forcing prices down.

### **LIMES**

#### **Domestic**

Harvest was completed this month with prices remaining steady.

### **CLEMENTINES**

#### **Domestic**

Natural colour Clementines are now available after gassed fruit being placed on the market in the last few weeks. Taste is good and acceptable to consumers.

### **IMPERIALS**

#### **Domestic**

Queensland Imperials continue to be the preferred variety in the domestic market.

#### **Export**

Indonesia is the preferred market for the small size fruit. Comments from the market indicate that the early Queensland Imperial is not performing as well as in previous seasons.

## **NAVELINAS**

### **Domestic**

Heavy supplies at high prices have stalled local market sales. Wholesalers looking to kick-start the season with high turn-over but buyers are in short supply while growers and packers are holding up prices.

### **Export**

While US Late Lanes are available these will be preferred to Australian early season navels, which by comparison are lighter colour and lower sugar. Even with the early maturity in Australia buyers are wary as they have had similar experiences in previous years. June packing should be the order of the day.

*Source: Australian Horticultural Exports Association (AHEA)*