

CLOSE-UP
Banana



European stone fruit season:
2011 harvest forecasts

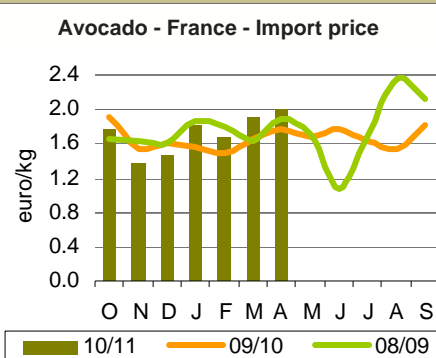
Trends in citrus diseases:
the situation in Italy

<http://passionfruit.cirad.fr>

Avocado

April 2011

Marked under-supply of 'Hass'. The large arrivals from Spain did not make up for another month of complete absence of Mexican fruits and the very gradual start of the Peruvian season in a context of limited shipments from Israel. Meanwhile demand increased for the traditional Easter promotion operations, although these were down-sized as supply was small. Prices firmed and reached EUR 10 per box at the end of the month for fruits from some sources. The market for green varieties was less euphoric. The supply shortage was only slight, with moderate volumes from winter sources but fairly substantial quantities from Peru and Kenya. Prices held at a good level but a certain decrease was observed, especially for small fruits.



■ Avocado is becoming increasingly strongly anchored in the Australian diet. Apparent annual consumption reached nearly 54 000 t in 2009-10, that is to say 2.45 kg per person. The fruits consist of 45 000 t grown in Australia and 10 600 t imported from New Zealand, from which exports of 1 700 t should be deducted. Volumes have doubled in ten years.

Source: HAL

■ USAID support for the development of the avocado sector in the Dominican Republic. The US agency for international development has earmarked a budget of some USD 300 000 to help growers in the Cambita region (west of Santo Domingo) to export avocado. The funds will be invested in technical support for both production and sales and in the setting up of a packing station. The objective is to be able to ship a little more than 70 containers of fruits per year.

Source: InfoHass.net

■ 2010-11 winter avocado season in the EU: overall supply probably suffered from a deficit. Professional sources make it possible to draw up a preliminary balance of community supply from major suppliers in the 2010-11 season. It confirms that overall supply was somewhat short. At some 11 million boxes, Israeli exports increased slightly in comparison with 2009-10 (10.5 million boxes), a fine performance in comparison with preceding seasons (7 to 8 million boxes in 2007-08 and 2008-09). In contrast, Mexi-

can shipments fell dramatically. Arrivals should be less than a million boxes after 2 to 3 million since 2005-06 and more than 4 million before that! For reference (FruiTrop 185), the Chilean season was also small with 6.5 million boxes shipped to the EU, a figure almost as low as in 2007-08 and 2008-09 and far from that of 2009-10 when 13 million boxes were received. We are now waiting for customs figures for information about Spanish performance to be able to make a full review.

Source: CIRAD



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PRICE	Varieties	Average monthly price euro/box	Comparison with the last 2 years
	Green	6.50-7.00	+ 17%
	Hass	9.00-9.50	+ 9%

VOLUMES	Varieties	Comparison	
		previous month	last 2 years average
	Green	↗	- 2%
	Hass	↗	- 7%

VOLUMES	Source	Comparison		Observations	Cumulated total / cumulated average for last 2 years
		previous month	average for last 2 years		
	Israel	↘	+ 51%	Season coming to an end with volumes higher than average but moderate and much smaller than those of the last season.	+ 18%
	Peru	↗	- 8%	Arrivals increased but there was a serious shortage of 'Hass' (medium harvest, opening of the United States market very likely).	- 35%
	Spain	↗	+ 39%	Marked peak in supply of 'Hass' especially during the Easter period. Very limited volumes of green varieties.	+ 3%
	South Africa	↗	- 44%	Start of the season somewhat late for both 'Hass' and green varieties; volumes were moderate as a result of a strong production deficit.	- 44%
	Kenya	↗	- 44%	Arrivals of 'Fuerte' were strong and growing. Some moderate volumes of 'Hass'.	+ 4%

Banana

April 2011

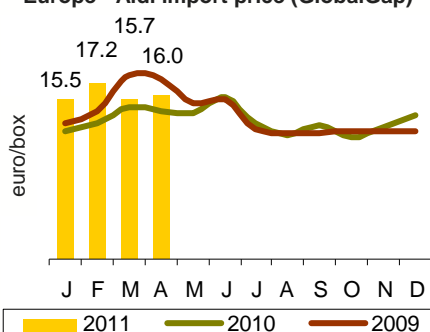
The first part of 2011 was definitely atypical. A recovery that was surprising for the season took place in April after a more difficult March than usual. European market supply was short in spite of the large volumes shipped from Surinam. Shipments from the French West Indies were stable and moderate while those from Africa were particularly small. The deficit in fruits from Cameroon and Ghana decreased but the political troubles in Côte d'Ivoire caused a serious dip in supply. Finally and above all, arrivals of dollar bananas were smaller than normal. Deliveries from Ecuador were still large. However, they did not make up for the weakness of the volumes from Costa Rica and above all from Colombia, the reason in both cases being small productivity because of unfavourable weather conditions in the preceding months.

In addition, the seasonal decrease in demand in the first fortnight was only small. The season's fruits, whose prices held fairly well, seem to have had a comparatively moderate effect on banana sales in France and Southern Europe. Release continued at a good rate in Germany and, as usual, Easter was good for banana sales on the Eastern European market. This resulted in a firming of prices until the end of the month, when market balance became delicate. Prices remained very high in Spain, where arrivals of Canary Island bananas were very small.

EUROPE — ALDI IMPORT PRICE

April 2011 euro/box	Comparison	
	previous month	average for last 2 years
16.00	+ 2%	0%

Europe - Aldi import price (GlobalGap)



■ Canary Island bananas on the German market from September 2011. ASPROCAN has decided to target Germany in its necessary quest for market diversification. The objectives are modest at about one load by road every week (1 000 t per year), with the quality segment being aimed at. The first fruits should be available in September 2011. The initiative could be extended to Switzerland, Austria and certain Eastern European countries (Hungary, Poland, etc.).

Sources: Reefer Trends, ASPROCAN

■ The Ecuadorean government sees red! Nearly a million dollars! This is the total of the fines to be paid by nine Ecuadorean exporting companies that did not respect the 'new banana law' aimed at rebalancing the relation between production and trade. The law came into force at the beginning of this year and guarantees the respect of a minimum price (set at USD 5.50 per 41.5-lb box until



the end of 2011) by means of the obligatory use of a sales contract and the routing of transactions via the Central Bank of Ecuador. The companies fined did not respect the latter clause. And the government promises even heavier sanctions for second offenders, with export licences withdrawn at the third offence!

Source: Reefer Trends

■ JFC to double its own banana production. The St Petersburg group has announced that it has obtained a loan of USD 180 million to be used to develop distribution infrastructure in Russian cities with popu-

lations of 500 000 and to increase its own banana production. The area of the group's plantations in Ecuador and Costa Rica should increase from 3 000 to 5 000 ha. The Russian market leader, in 2010 JFC controlled 36% of domestic trade in bananas and 15% of that of fruits, according to its own sources.

Source: Reefer Trends



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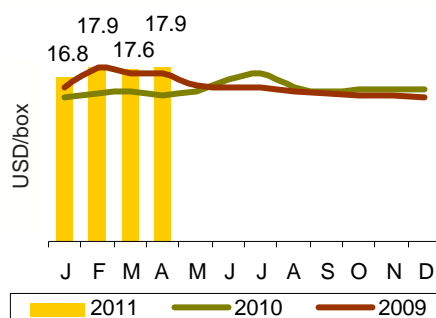
EUROPE — RETAIL PRICE

Country	April 2011		Comparison	
	type	euro/kg	March 2011	average for last 2 years
France	normal	1.59	- 6%	0%
	special offer	1.32	- 10%	- 7%
Germany	normal	1.30	- 4%	- 6%
	discount	1.13	- 6%	- 7%
UK (£/kg)	packed	1.19	+ 1%	+ 2%
	loose	0.73	- 8%	- 16%
Spain	plátano	2.00	+ 3%	+ 8%
	banano	1.42	0%	- 4%

Banana

UNITED STATES

USA - Green price (spot)

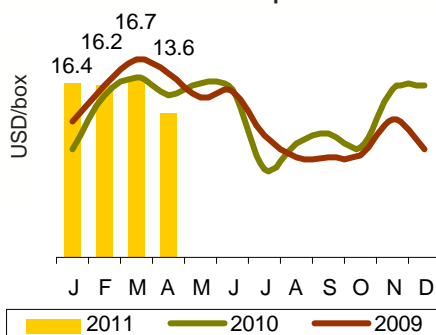


USA — IMPORT PRICE

April 2011 USD/box	Comparison	
	previous month	average for last 2 years
17.90	+ 1%	+ 11%

RUSSIA

Russia - Green price

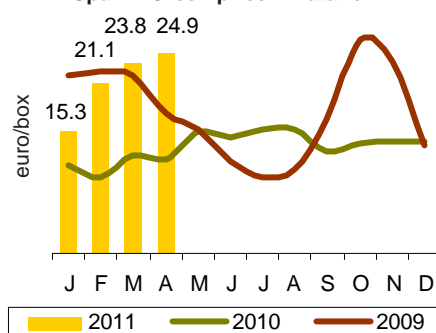


RUSSIA — IMPORT PRICE

April 2011 USD/box	Comparison	
	previous month	average for last 2 years
13.60	+ 2%	0%

CANARIES

Spain - Green price - Platanos*



CANARIES — IMPORT PRICE*

April 2011 euro/box	Comparison	
	previous month	average for last 2 years
24.90	+ 5%	+ 71%

* 18.5 kg box equivalent

■ Banana supply to the EU and the USA in January and February 2011: trend unchanged.

Banana supply to Europe is decreasing again. According to CIRAD estimates, the European market lost 3% in the first two months of the year. European production was down 10% in comparison with 2010 because of the still distinct effects of hurricane Tomas that hit Martinique (- 37%) and Guadeloupe (- 15%) at the end of 2010. Canary Island bananas displayed a nearly 2% increase.

Strongly affected, the ACP group also displayed a decrease. African ACPs shipped 13% less and the others 7% less. Cameroon (- 28%) accounts for the whole African ACP decrease. It will take another two or three months for Cameroonian recovery to be seen in customs figures, with the source returning to more traditional levels from early May onwards. Côte d'Ivoire confirmed the good trend of recent years (+ 2%) as the troubles only affected exports to a limited degree. Although the Dominican Republic (+ 22%) broke its record for exports to the EU yet another time, it did not make up either for the absence of St Lucia and St Vincent or for the

very strong temporary dip in shipments from Surinam (- 40%).

Dollar sources remained stable in general but with strong decisions made about the allocation of shipments to the EU or US markets. Ecuador performed very well during the first two months of the year with 13% growth whereas shipments from Colombia (- 3%), Costa Rica (- 12%) and Panama (- 24%) decreased markedly. The opposite was true for the US market where these three sources, and Ecuador as well, displayed considerable increase on a strongly growing market with a 3% increase in net supply.

Brazil continues to suffer month after month and year after year, whereas Peru, like the Dominican Republic, is benefiting strongly from organic and fair trade bananas.

It has been mentioned that the US market continued to grow in the first two months of the year. Guatemala and Honduras are practically the only sources to have slowed shipments to this market for reasons of meteorological problems. Banana consumption in the USA reached nearly 600 000 t in January and February in comparison with 823 000 t in EU-27.

Source: CIRAD

■ European imports of banana in January and February 2011.

Banana - EU-27 - January and February 2011 imports (provisional)

tonnes	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008-2010 average	Variation 2011/2010
Extra-EU	755 626	753 774	754 534	736 635	754 645	- 2%
MFN	614 812	618 217	594 939	593 338	609 323	0%
ACP, of which	140 814	135 557	159 595	143 297	145 322	- 10%
ACP Africa	91 939	77 350	92 246	80 503	87 178	- 13%
ACP others	48 875	58 208	67 349	62 794	58 144	- 7%

Note: 2011 figures provisional, data lacking for certain member states and certain months.

Source: EUROSTAT customs code 8 030 019

EUROPE — IMPORTED VOLUMES — APRIL 2011

Origin	Comparison		
	March 2011	April 2010	cumulated total 2011 compared to 2010
French West Indies	=	- 4%	- 19%
Cameroon/Ghana	↘	- 38%	- 22%
Surinam	↗↗	+ 36%	- 12%
Canaries	↘	- 25%	- 9%
Dollar:			
Ecuador	=↘	+ 17%	0%
Colombia*	↘	- 21%	0%
Costa Rica	↘	- 9%	- 4%

* total all destinations

Pineapple

April 2011

In April, operators greatly feared the arrival of large volumes of 'Sweet' from Costa Rica. This did not happen and in contrast supply was very small, leaving operators wondering how they could fulfil their undertakings for the promotion operations planned for Easter. Sales were very fluid in this context and the small volumes released on the market sold fast. Supply continued to be imbalanced with few medium-sized fruits and lots of large ones. An increase in prices might have been expected as supply was small but this did not happen. Prices were just a little firmer for the most sought-after sizes. As occurs whenever market conditions are difficult, major brand fruits sold best. The difference in price was as much as 2 euros for certain sizes. Demand decreased rapidly after Easter and this was seen in prices.

The crisis in Côte d'Ivoire was at its most intense in April. In practical terms, this resulted in the halting of exports from the country and an absence of batches of 'Smooth Cayenne' on the market until the end of the month.

Supply was small on the air pineapple market throughout the month, and operators were able to notch up their prices. Sales were good. A weakening of demand was felt after Easter and prices dipped a little. Sales of 'Sugarloaf' pineapples from Benin were brisk in April as there were few fruits and very strong demand for the few batches available. Prices of 'Sugarloaf' pineapples remained good at EUR 1.90 to 2.10 per kg throughout the month.

In April, supply of 'Victoria' from Mauritius was more ample. Unfortunately quality was uneven and the fruit did not truly profit from the weakness of competing supply and sell better.

PINEAPPLE — IMPORT PRICE

Weeks 14 to 17	Min	Max
By air (euro/kg)		
Smooth Cayenne	1.75	2.00
Victoria	3.00	4.50
By sea (euro/box)		
Smooth Cayenne	-	-
Sweet	6.50	9.00

Mango

April 2011

The fairly rapid decrease in deliveries from Peru caused a distinct change in market conditions in April. It resulted in a large and sudden increase in prices as the decrease in supply coincided with preparations for Easter, a period during which demand usually increases. Peak selling prices were reached in the second and third weeks of the month. Prices weakened while demand fell in the last week in spite of the steady decrease in shipments from Peru. At the same time as the increase in the prices of Peruvian mangoes, sales at lower prices (from EUR 3.00 per box) were observed in the first half of the month because of the more uneven quality of Peruvian fruits from storage or on arrival. Making up for the deficit from Peru, Brazil returned to the market with larger volumes. Other sources such as Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Puerto Rico also benefited from the increase in prices to place complementary volumes. Supply became more chaotic at the end of the month, with numerous sources, varieties and fruits.

The increase in arrivals of shipments by air from Peru at the beginning of the month weighed on sales conditions for the fruits concerned. Furthermore, many batches consisted of very ripe fruits that

had to be sold rapidly. In this context, the price of air mangoes decreased or held at a medium level without a systematic relation with the cost price. Supply arriving by air was also completed by deliveries from West African countries and consisted of a great range of varieties, colour and ripeness that poorly matched demand that preferred fruits ready to eat. Costa Rica consolidated the sales niche inaugurated in 2010, shipping 'Cavallini', 'Mora' and 'Irwin', generally of good quality. The first Kent from 'Côte d'Ivoire' arrived in the second half of the month. Their arrival on the market coincided with the last shipments from Peru and their selling conditions were satisfactory in spite of competition from the other West African sources.

MANGO — ARRIVALS (ESTIMATES) Tonnes

Weeks 2011	14	15	16	17
By air				
Peru	120	100	15	15
Mali	20	30	50	50
Burkina Faso	20	30	25	15
Costa Rica	10	10	10	-
Côte d'Ivoire	-	-	80	130
By sea				
Brazil	2 200	660	660	2 860
Peru	2 050	1 470	1 450	1 210

EUROPE

MANGO — IMPORT PRICE ON THE FRENCH MARKET — Euro

Weeks 2011		14	15	16	17	April 2011 average	April 2010 average
By air (kg)							
Peru	Kent	3.50-4.00	3.00-4.00	3.00-3.80	3.00-3.80	3.10-3.90	3.80-4.40
Mali	Amélie	2.50-2.80	2.40-2.50	2.20	2.50	2.40-2.50	2.35-2.50
Mali	Valencia	2.80-4.00	2.50-3.00	2.00-2.50	2.50-3.00	2.45-3.10	2.70-3.25
Mali	Kent	-	-	-	3.00-3.50	3.00-3.50	3.50-3.65
Burkina Faso	Amélie	2.00-2.20	2.00	2.00-2.20	2.00-2.20	2.00-2.15	2.25-2.30
Burkina Faso	Kent	-	3.00	2.50-2.80	2.50-3.50	2.65-3.10	na
Costa Rica	Cavallini	3.00-4.00	3.00-4.00	4.00-4.20	4.00	3.50-4.05	na
Côte d'Ivoire	Kent	-	-	3.50-4.50	3.50-4.00	3.50-4.25	3.75-4.20
By sea (box)							
Brazil	T. Atkins	5.00	5.00-5.50	-	5.50-6.00	5.15-5.50	2.60-3.60
Peru	Kent	4.20-5.50	5.00-7.00	5.50-7.00	5.00-6.00	4.90-6.35	5.00-6.15

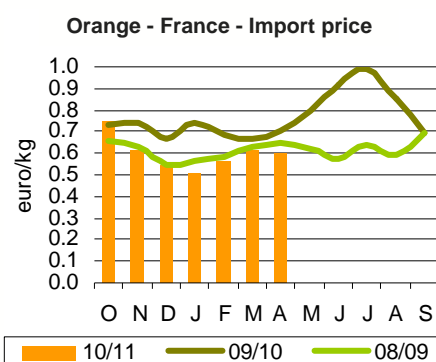
PINEAPPLE — IMPORT PRICE IN FRANCE — MAIN ORIGINS

Weeks 2011		14	15	16	17
By air (euro/kg)					
Smooth Cayenne	Benin	1.80-1.90	1.80-1.90	1.85-1.90	1.80-1.90
	Cameroon	1.85-2.00	1.85-1.90	1.85-1.90	1.80-1.90
	Ghana	1.85-1.90	1.80-1.90	1.80-1.90	1.75-1.90
	Côte d'Ivoire	-	-	-	-
Victoria	Réunion	4.00-4.50	4.00-4.50	3.50-4.50	3.50-4.00
	Mauritius	3.00-4.00	3.00-3.50	3.00-3.50	3.00-3.50
	South Africa	3.40-3.70	3.40-3.70	3.40-3.70	3.40-3.70
By sea (euro/box)					
Smooth Cayenne	Côte d'Ivoire	-	-	-	-
Sweet	Côte d'Ivoire	-	-	-	-
	Cameroon	6.50-9.00	6.50-9.00	6.50-9.00	6.50-9.00
	Ghana	6.50-9.00	6.50-9.00	6.50-9.00	6.50-9.00
	Costa Rica	6.50-8.00	7.00-8.50	7.00-8.50	6.50-8.00

Orange

April 2011

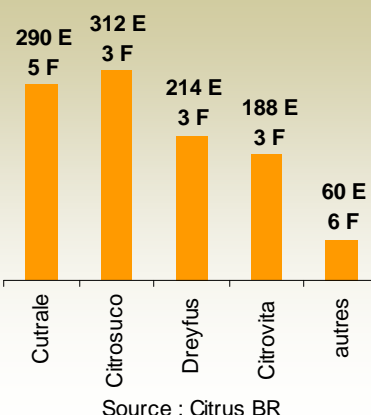
The market remained difficult for lack of demand. Supply tended to be moderate. In the dessert orange category, the season for 'Navelate' from Spain tailed off early in the last part of the month. The situation was the same for juice oranges with 'Valencia Late' from Spain continuing to develop very slowly even though the 'Salustiana' season had ended. However, unusually hot weather accentuated the seasonal decrease in sales. Furthermore, quality continued to be merely average after the frost that had hit Spain at the beginning of the year. As a result, prices remained at a medium level for 'Valencia' and were rock bottom for 'Navelate'. 'Maroc Late' was practically absent from the community market. Only the last batches of 'Maltese' from Tunisia sold under fairly good conditions on a niche market.



■ Diversification of outlets for Spanish citrus. Spain, the giant world leader of the citrus export trade, is too dependent on the EU market. The figures speak for themselves: 80% of annual exports in excess of 3 million tonnes is shipped to Western Europe. The export balance for this season should show that a strategy for the diversification of the customer portfolio has begun to take shape. Shipments to destinations outside Western Europe up to mid-April exceeded 170 000 t, an increase of nearly 70 000 t in comparison with the previous season. Professionals have concentrated their efforts on markets in North America (+ 16 000 t to the United States and + 5 000 t to Canada), Eastern Europe (+ 30 000 t to Russia, + 4 000 t to Belarus and + 3 000 t to Ukraine) and the Persian Gulf (+ 3 000 t to Saudi Arabia and the emirates). There is immense potential as North American and Eastern Europe display strong under-consumption, especially as regards easy peelers and oranges. This potential is very attractive and other sources such as Morocco are also concentrating on these markets.

Sources: customs, CIRAD, FoodNews

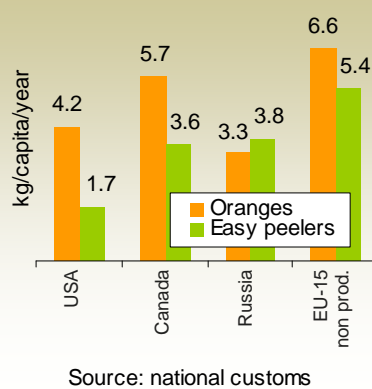
Orange industry in Brazil
Number of extractors (E) and factories (F) in the Sao Paulo region



■ Orange juice: just one more step to be taken before the wedding of the century. The EU Antitrust Commission has approved the plan for the merger between Citrosuco (Votorantim group) and Citrovita (Fisher group), two of the four giants that control the greater part of the world orange juice trade, along with Cutrale and Louis Dreyfus. All that remains to be obtained before the wedding celebrations is the green light from the Brazilian antitrust commission. Will small Brazilian growers have to foot the bill?

Source: Bloomberg

Orange and easy peelers consumption (2009-10 average)



■ Brazilian oranges: orchard recovery coming? One year! That is how long it takes on average to obtain orange seedlings from Brazilian nurseries, according to EPTV, the Brazilian press agency. Processors increased the price paid per box of oranges from USD 2-5 at the end of 2008 to USD 8-9 since April 2010 according to Escola Superior de Agricultura Luiz De Queiroz (ESALQ), and this seems to have encouraged growers.

Sources: EPTV, ESALQ

PRICE	Type	Average monthly price euro/box 15 kg	Comparison with average for last 2 years
	Dessert oranges	9.00-9.50	- 12%
	Juice oranges	8.50-9.00	- 4%

VOLUMES	Type	Comparison	
		previous month	average for last 2 years
	Dessert oranges	↘	- 12%
	Juice oranges	↗	- 30%

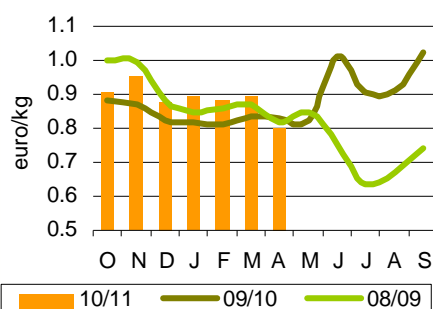
VOLUMES	Varieties by source	Comparison		Observations	Cumulated total / cumulated average for last 2 years
		previous month	average for last 2 years		
	Valencia late from Morocco	↗	- 27%	Very limited volumes for the EU because of market conditions.	+ 18%
	Navelate from Spain	↘↘	- 20%	The season slowed very early because of production losses caused by frost. Volumes distinctly smaller than average.	- 30%
	Valencia from Spain	↗	- 38%	Very gradual start to the season even though 'Salustiana' had finished.	- 50%
	Maltese from Tunisia	↘	na	Steady, moderate supply throughout the month.	- 19%

Grapefruit

April 2011

Performance was somewhat mixed during the month, especially for fruit from Florida. Arrivals slowed early, at the beginning of the month and the last deliveries were at the end of the period. However, demand slowed and rather than improving, prices remained more than 10% lower than usual. Supply of Mediterranean fruits was average. Strong arrivals from Israel and Spain made up for the small shipments from Turkey, while a few batches from Corsica complemented French supply. Demand for small fruits was medium to slow. Nevertheless, prices held at a fairly satisfactory level, especially for Israeli and Corsican fruits. The first batches from South Africa were delivered early, reaching Northern Europe at the end of the month.

Grapefruit - France - Import price



■ A new late easy peeler variety developed by University of California - Riverside. 'Kinnow Low Seed' was bred from a parent of the same name also created at Riverside about a century ago. The fruit has strongly coloured peel, is fairly large with 10 to 11 segments containing very sweet juice. But the variety differs from its parent above all in the number of seeds: usually two or three in comparison with 15 to 30. It is ripe between February and April under cultivation conditions in California. Distributed from June 2011, seedlings will not be sold outside the United States for three years.

Contact: iqbal@ucr.edu

Source: Eurekalert

■ 2010-11 Florida grapefruit export season: an unsurprising decrease. Figures published by FDOC confirm the downward trend in Florida grapefruit exports. The volumes sold outside the United States should hardly exceed 10 million 42.5 lb (19.3 kg) boxes in comparison with 11.3 million in the two preceding seasons. The decrease is of comparable proportions on the two main markets, that is to say Japan and the European Union. In contrast, the quantities shipped to Canada are stable at slightly over one million boxes. The other markets, mainly in Asia (South Korea and Thailand) were also practically stable, taking a little more than 400 000 boxes.

Source: FDOC



© Régis Domergue

PRICE	Type	Average monthly price euro/box 17 kg box eq.	Comparison with average for last 2 years
	Tropical	15.75-16.25	- 3%
	Mediterranean	11.00-12.00	+ 7%

VOLUMES	Type	Comparison	
		previous month	average for last 2 years
	Tropical	↘↘	- 13%
	Mediterranean	↘	+ 1%

VOLUMES	Source	Comparison	
		previous month	average for last 2 years
	Florida	↘↘	- 13%
	Israel	=↘	+ 18%
	Turkey	↘↘	- 54%

Grapefruit — Florida — Exports thousand boxes of 42.5 pounds (19.3 kg)								
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11*	Variation 2010- 11/2008-10 average
EU	2 786	2 115	4 395	5 011	3 923	3 455	3 100	- 16%
Japan	4 832	4 559	7 860	7 018	6 036	6 277	5 400	- 12%
Canada	768	773	1 282	1 163	1 088	1 151	1 150	+ 3%
Others, incl.	135	240	335	455	261	430	457	+ 32%
South Korea	64	58	197	210	147	226	235	+ 26%
Taiwan	31	146	68	143	43	141	117	+ 27%
Total	8 616	7 891	14 137	14 000	11 498	11 680	10 342	- 11%

* estimates / Source: FDOC

Observations			Cumulated total / cumulated average for last 2 years
Early decrease of arrivals at the beginning of the month, both in the EU and Japan. Last limited volumes at the end of the month.			- 16%
Arrivals substantial for the season, especially in mid-month.			+ 11%
Exports decreased from the beginning of the month. Supply to the EU was particularly limited, especially during the second half of the month.			- 19%

Sea freight

April 2011

Operators' optimism of a shallow decline in the average TCE yield after this year's encouraging peak faded quickly as charterers capitalised on a tonnage surplus following the redelivery of units from the Chilean grape programme. Although the supply of capacity was never greatly in excess of demand (until the end of the month) there was always sufficient for charterers to be able to exert downwards pressure on rates.

At a time when more bananas are being loaded out of Ecuador in reefer boxes than in specialised reefers for the first time ever, there were insufficient Spot banana cargoes from the Med traders to absorb the surplus. Hopes that Argentinean citrus exporters would start shipping early proved unfounded while the late demand for squid that underpinned the long seasonal peaks in 2007 and 2008 did not materialise.

Over the course of April the box rate for bananas fell from USD 8-plus to USD 6 while the TCE yield fell from 90c/cbft to 35c/cbft. The April monthly average of 55c/cbft for the large segment means that the Reefer Trends' average for the first four months of 2011 calculates at 77c/cbft compared to last year's 55c/cbft (60c/cbft in 2009 and 103c/cbft in 2008), despite a 35% rise in bunker costs over the 12 months.

The small segment meanwhile recorded an average of 103c/cbft for the period, up from last year's 58c and the 70c/cbft in 2009. In a high bunker price environment the market for the smaller vessels is, to a large extent, at the mercy of the market for the larger units, which are most cost-efficient. Operators of larger vessels are able to offer lower box/pallet/MT rates and still net a higher c/cbft yield. This is an unwelcome new variable and will inevitably result in a disproportionate number of smaller vessels being demolished this year.

MONTHLY SPOT AVERAGE

US\$/cents/cubic foot x 30 days	Large reefers	Small reefers
April 2011	55	83
April 2010	48	53
April 2009	30	44

■ The European litchi market in April. European supply in April followed the trend that started in the second half of February. Consisting exclusively of fruits shipped from Thailand by air, very limited import flows reached the Dutch and Belgian markets. Thai litchis sold steadily on the Dutch market at around EUR 11.25 per kg during the first three weeks of April; this was slightly down in comparison with the first arrivals in March. Prices fell markedly at the end of the month to about EUR 8.75 per kg. In spite of this considerable fall, prices remained high and firm. In contrast with last year, it seems that the first shipments from Thailand by sea are running somewhat late. In 2010, the first batches were received at the end of April. These fruits will probably not reach the European market until May this year.

Source: Pierre Gerbaud

■ From Katopé to Univeg Katopé France. A large stakeholder in the international fresh produce market and very active in fruit and vegetables, the Univeg company (sales of EUR 3 billion, 9 500 employees) has operated in France since 2008 through the Katopé Group. Univeg Katopé France (sales of EUR 145 million in 2010) has just inaugurated its new operations centre at Rungis wholesale market. The facility has a large capacity, is modular, multi-temperature and multitask. Special attention has been paid to



the reduction of impacts on the environment during the use of this immense storage, ripening and packing facility. For example, ammoniac, whose GWP (Global Warming Potential) is nil, replaces the usual refrigeration liquids that contribute to global warming. Summarised in a few figures, the facility has 7 000 m² of warehousing with controlled temperature, a 2 700 m² ripening facility (capacity 35 000 t) for bananas and other fruits (15 000 t), 1 000 m² of packing facilities, 15 quays and 1 500 m² offices, with an investment cost of EUR 12 million.

Source : CIRAD

■ Isabelle Chmitelin head of Odeadom (Office de développement de l'économie agricole d'outre-mer, France) since 1 May 2011. Trained as a veterinary surgeon, she was previously regional director of Food, Agriculture and Forestry in the 'Centre' region. Paul Luu, after managing Odeadom for six years, becomes the director of Agropolis International (Montpellier, France).

Source : CIRAD

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