



# Update

The bimonthly newsletter of Corona-College Heights Orange & Lemon Association

*Serving California's citrus growers and buyers since 1899 with state-of-the-art packing facilities and marketing strategies*

Vol. 1, No. 3

July-August 2002

## Report from the field

-  *Broad grower base for consistent supplies*
-  *Year-round packinghouse*
-  *State-of-the-art packing facilities*
-  *Transportation savings and convenience*
-  *Established reputation*
-  *Financial stability*

### *District 1: Kern, Tulare counties (Hal Wyatt)*

**Valencias.** We are about 85 percent picked. Overall, valencias in this district are 50 percent harvested, and the entire district is very limited on export quality fruit as a result of coarseness and regreening. The market is extremely slow with more domestic fruit than export fruit.

**Ruby Red grapefruit** is ready with sizes of 32, 36 and 40s. However, there is very low demand, so we are waiting for a market to materialize.

The 2002-03 navel and lemon crops are looking good. It won't be a heavy crop, but it will be manageable.

### *District 2: Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo counties (Bob King)*

**Lemons.** The third pick starts the first week of July, and we'll probably have another pick in September or October, so we'll get four picks this year. Size is about normal—peaking on 165s and 140s. Weather has been really good without a lot of heat, but growers should continue to put on plenty of water. A few acres of new plantings have been started in Goleta.

### *District 2: Ventura County (Brett Kirkpatrick)*

**Valencias.** We finally started harvesting in mid-June, which is about month later than anticipated. Harvest was delayed due to poor pricing and excess supply from the San Joaquin Valley. Now that the warm weather is here, customers are shifting their demand to Southern California fruit. Size appears to be as expected: 113 peak and 138 or 88's, depending on the grove. Because of the cool spring and summer (so far), fruit quality is holding well. Our strategy is to be patient and allow the market to develop in order to maximize grower return.

At this time, the glassy-winged sharpshooter is not active in groves. It remains to be seen if this is a spring phenomenon or if the population number has actually decreased as a result of grower treatments.

**Lemons.** Depending on the grove, we're well into our third pick on lemons and about 60 percent harvested for the season. Wash reports continue to be disappointing, with a higher percentage of second-grade quality fruit to first-grade. There may be a bit more summer fruit than originally estimated, and a lot will depend on how fruit sizes up and what kind of weather we have over the next two months. If temperatures remain cool, we should do fairly well; but if it gets hot, all bets are

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## Citrus market report

*John Demshki, CCH President*

### *Star and Ruby grapefruit*

For the Star crop, CCH is about 60 percent harvested. The industry as a whole is only about 30 percent harvested. There is a lot of Star inventory in Japan from Florida and Texas. Sunkist priced the early fruit very high, which caused the landed cost per carton in Japan to be about twice the price of South African fruit. As a result, Japan shifted a lot of their business to South Africa. CCH has been successful in selling about 50,000 cartons of chem-free and organic product to Japan, including 2,000 cartons by air freight. This fruit was sold at an average of \$1.50 per carton over Sunkist scale. CCH also gave two major U.S. retailers season-wide pricing at the five-year average, which has resulted in good movement. With Texas up to about 4 million cartons per year with a desirable product and fruit that holds until well into May, and South African fruit shipping early, this has narrowed the California export window for grapefruit.

The Japanese consumption market has shifted to 70 percent red and 30 percent white, which is a reversal of what their market was 10 years ago. I believe that Star acreage will be down by 21 percent next year and another 20 percent or so within three more years, which should equalize the market. The choice price is up almost \$3 per carton over last year.

Ruby grapefruit acreage is down 19 percent this year and will be down another 20 percent in the next one to two years. The rumor that South Africa will ship 3.4 million cartons of Rubies this year is probably false. It will more likely be about 2.4 million cartons. A bright spot for California Rubies for the end of season is that South Africa appears to be having problems with black spot virus. This will likely shorten their season. Another bright spot is that CCH's season long deal with the two major USA retailers extends to not only Stars, but also Rubies.

### *Lemons*

Grove-to-grove quantity appears to be down 25 percent for District 2 lemons. CCH only has 50,000 cartons in storage and Ventura got hurt pretty badly by the March wind and cold. This should allow the desert to have a strong start of the season. Chile has been beset by six weeks of rain, which has forced them to harvest later than they normally do. Because Chile normally harvests too soon, generating a smaller size structure, CCH was able to sell off its smaller-sized inventory before the Chilean fruit arrived.

CCH is currently picking and packing field fruit as soon as possible after picking. There have been some arrival problems in Japan, but not too bad for fruit shipped this time of year. District 2 Pool 2 volume and price might not dictate having a third lemon pool this year. Argentina fruit will have to go through an extensive process to become legal in the U.S. and this looks like it will take at least several years.

### *Valencias*

The Valencia market got off to a very bad start due to huge over-picking and a market fiasco. District 1 is about 60 percent picked, and most of the fruit that is left is not very desirable from the buyer's point of view. Ventura fruit is small and of poor quality. The South African and Australian fruit looks like it will be short at the back end of the season, which should benefit U.S. growers. CCH is currently shipping about seven loads per week to Korea, two loads per week to Japan, and about two loads per week to Taiwan. Crop yields look like they will be off between 20 to 40 percent this year compared to last year.

A lot of valencia acreage will be coming out before next season. Some of the acreage loss is due to nurseries buying it, some to real estate development, and some due to farmer abandonment. But the juice market is starting strong—almost double that of last year. ❖

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### **Growers!**

Have you returned your ballot to the Citrus Research Board (CRB)? If not, do it today! If the citrus industry does not support the CRB, the CRB will lose its standing before government agencies to represent the industry.

# Stats from the packinghouse

as of June 20, 2002

NOTE: Stats do not include organic or chem-free totals.

Variety	District	Fancy %	Choice %	Standard %	Juice %	Total %
Lemon	District 1	62.1%	14.8%	2.3%	20.8%	100.0%
Valencia	District 1	54.4%	21.4%	0.0%	24.2%	100.0%
Navel	District 2	37.3%	27.1%	0.0%	35.6%	100.0%
Lemon	District 2	27.6%	39.5%	0.0%	32.9%	100.0%
Star	District 2	51.8%	15.6%	0.0%	32.6%	100.0%
Valencia	District 2	41.1%	21.8%	0.0%	37.1%	100.0%
Rio	District 3	40.3%	30.6%	0.0%	29.1%	100.0%
Ruby	District 3	42.8%	24.1%	0.0%	33.1%	100.0%

Lemons in storage: 77,300



## Estimated pool closing schedule

as of June 18, 2002

NOTE: The projected schedule estimates when the major open pools will be closed and paid. Closing dates listed are estimates only and subject to change based on marketing conditions. An asterisk (\*) represents a revised pool closing date.

Year	Pool name	Estimated pool closing date	Last date received
2002	Lem 1-3	In storage	5/10/102
2002	Lem 2-1	In storage	4/30/102
2002	Lem 2-2	Picking	Picking
2002	Lem 2-6	Picking	Picking
2002	Lem 2-7	Picking	Picking
2002	Lem 2-10	Picking	Picking
2002	Nav 1-22	7/31/102	4/24/102
2002	Nav 2-5	7/15/102	4/23/102
2002	Rios 3-2	Picking	Picking
2002	Ruby 3-1	Picking	Picking
2002	Star 2-1	Picking	Picking
2002	Star 2-10	Picking	Picking
2002	Val 1-1	8/15/102	5/14/102
2002	Val 1-6	Picking	Picking
2002	Val 2-1	Picking	Picking
2002	Val 2-6	7/31/102	4/30/102
2002	Val 2-10	8/15/102	5/23/102
2002	Val 3-1	7/10/102 *	4/4/102
2002	White 2-1	Picking	Picking

## Citrus Leafminer: A new pest in California

by Dr. Peggy Mauk,  
County Director/ Subtropical Horticulture  
Advisor UCCE Riverside County  
and

Dr. Beth Grafton-Cardwell,  
IPM Specialist UC Riverside

The citrus leafminer (CLM), *Phyllocnistis citrella*, is a small moth with a larval stage that feeds on leaves in a serpentine mine with one mine per leaf. Citrus leafminer is native to Asia and is found in citrus-producing countries throughout the world. It was first found in a few citrus nurseries in southern Florida in May 1993. It spread rapidly throughout Florida and into Louisiana and Texas. In Imperial County, California, CLM was first found in backyard citrus in a few locations adjacent to the Mexican border in January 2000. By the fall of 2001, CLM had spread to other areas of Imperial County and is now found from Winterhaven to Niland, attacking nursery stock, commercial groves of lemons, grapefruit and oranges, and backyard citrus. CLM larvae damage the flush growth of citrus by mining the lower surface of emerging leaves causing them to curl and look distorted. Because young

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### *Leafminer (Continued from page 3)*

trees and nursery trees tend to produce abundant amounts of flush growth throughout the year, they are more prone to damage by CLM than mature trees. In Florida, CLM can cause young trees to die if they are continuously defoliated by CLM. In California, continual defoliation has not been observed because the summer heat appears to suppress the pest. Thus, we anticipate that in California this pest is more likely to threaten the economic viability of the citrus nursery industry, not commercial fields.

In Florida, biological control reduces CLM by up to 90 percent. California has native natural enemies that are close relatives of those found in Florida. CDFA and UC Riverside currently have a program that will encourage these natural enemies to attack CLM. Biological control will be an important component to long-term control of this important pest, especially in commercial groves. Chemical control will be important in controlling CLM in nurseries. We are initiating research to determine the most efficacious treatments for control CLM on both field grown citrus and potted citrus.

This pest currently has an “A” quarantine rating and, therefore, any nursery with CLM will not be able to ship trees to any non-infested area. It is believed that the primary method of dispersal is by the moth flying to new areas. Fruit shipments are not a likely source of CLM since the pest does not infest fruit. CDFA and the County Agricultural Commissioners in Imperial and Riverside Counties are working with growers and packinghouses to ensure that fruit shipments are free from CLM. ❖

### *Field Report (continued from page 1)*

off. Sizes remain on small side, reflecting the lack of spring rain.

### *District 2: Riverside, San Diego counties (Ruben Gutierrez)*

**Valencias:** Pricewise, the market is very sluggish. Our biggest problem is with the small sizes. In a normal season, we would have 88s and 72s. Right now, we are picking heavy on 113s and 138s—one or two sizes under what we had last year.

**Lemons:** We are nearly finished with lemons for the season, with just a load here and there coming in.

**Grapefruit:** White grapefruit sales are not really there, and most will probably be going into byproducts. Star Ruby harvest has begun and will probably be completed by the end of July or early August. As of press time, we have about 190,00 boxes to go.

### *District 3: Riverside, Imperial counties (Ruben Gutierrez)*

**Lemons** look like they are of normal set and volume, with quality pretty good in general. Picking probably will occur in the first week of September.

**Ruby Red and Rio grapefruit** harvesting continues. It looks like we have at least another 60,000 boxes of Rios to take off the trees and about 70,000 boxes Ruby Reds yet to come off as of late June. ❖