

WORLD NEWS

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AUSTRALIA



Australian lychees burnt in the sun.

SOURCE: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-09-11/lychees/4950776>;
published 11 September 2013)

U.S. approves access for Aussie litchis

The U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has approved market access for Australian litchis, just four days after giving the nod to the country's mango exports. The fruit will need to be irradiated and will be allowed for shipment to all mainland states except Florida, due to the presence of litchi rust mite in Australia.

Litchi exporters will also need to comply with a systems approach and inspections will need to be undertaken at the port of entry, particularly to check for the presence of the litchi hairy mite which cannot be eliminated by irradiation.

With Australia proposing to export 400 metric tons (MT) of the fruit annually, making up 2,7% of the U.S. litchi import figure from 2004, APHIS did not expect that any significant price changes would result from the new access arrangements.

"Additionally we stated that, given that the agricultural seasons in the

Southern Hemisphere are generally the opposite of those in the Northern Hemisphere, the proposed imports from Australia likely would not directly compete with U.S. litchi fruit production."

The service said global litchi production stood at around 2,2 million MT with China accounting for more than half and India contributing a third. "The United States produces approximately 500 MT per year, which represents less than 0,03 percent of world production. U.S. litchi production is concentrated in the States of Florida, Hawaii and California. "Florida has the largest area under production (1 200 acres), followed by Hawaii (300 acres) and California (60 acres). Currently, Australia produces 3 500 MT of litchis." **ST**

(Source: <http://www.freshfruitportal.com/2013/09/24/u-s-approves-access-for-aussie-litchis/>; shortened; published 24 September 2013)

MADAGASCAR

Limited amount of lychees for export

During a meeting with the Ministry of Commerce, lychee exporters have agreed on the stagnation of exports for the 2013 campaign.

Seventeen thousand five hundred tons. This is the amount of lychees exported to traditional markets, mainly European countries in 2012. For this year, the same amount will be maintained. "The organisation for next season is already in place. It was decided by the members of the group of lychee exporters (GEL), the volume of exports will be limited to 17 500 tonnes

in order to prevent the situation from happening again as it did in 2011," recounts Faly Rasamimanana, a member of GEL.

"For the lychee industry, new markets are to be taken. For example, Russia has a high demand. But it must, moreover, be emphasized that it is necessary to monitor shipments, not to penalise the traditional market. Recently, an exporter said he would export to Israel, but ultimately the products have landed in Europe," notes Narson Rafidimanana for his part, President of GEL.

This year, the campaign will run between 15th and 20th November. The country will export more fruits firsts this year, with a greater quality and quantity. The restocking of hives in the Atsinanana and the adoption of drip irrigation system, will produce bigger fruits. **ST**

(Source: <http://www.lexpressmada.com/commerce-madagascar/46758-quantite-limitee-de-litchis-a-exporter.html>; shortened; published 23 September 2013)



CHINA

China litchi production in 2013

Since 2005, the litchi industry in China has entered a 'platform' stage, when the harvested area, total production and output value are relatively stable. The year of 2011 set a record in litchi production, with a harvested area of 498 000 ha (89,6% of the planting area) producing 1,91 million tons worth of 9,967 billion Yuan. The production was 1,55 million tons in the following year.

Another bumper year was expected at flowering in 2013. However, due to continuous rains from late March to early April in the late blooming season, the initial fruit set was poor in the mid and north regions of Guangxi, Guangdong and Fujian province. Production in 2013 was estimated to be 1,65 million tons, about 100 000 tons more than the previous year.

Still there are some constrains to be overcome for upgrading our litchi industry. Poor infrastructures such as orchard layout, fertiliser application and water management are some of the constrains that limit productivity in many litchi orchards. High costs reduce the profit, making litchi less incentive to growers.

We are generally optimistic on our litchi industry even though there are bad sides. Litchi orchards under good management are decreasing in the coastal regions like Guangzhou, Shen-

zhen and Zhuhai due to urbanisation, whereas litchis are slightly expanding in Sichuan and Yunnan provinces, the late litchi region. Major cultivars like 'Heiye' ('Haak Yip') and 'Huaizhi' ('Wai Chee') in eastern Guangdong, southern Fujian and Guangxi are still low price cultivars and need to be top-worked with better cultivars. We are trying to provide more suitable cultivars for growers to choose, such as 'Jingganghongnuo' and 'Lingfengnuo', which combine the desirable traits of 'Nuomici' and 'Huaizhi'. Growers show high passion for the new cultivars. Information about grafting compatibility among cultivars and techniques of topworking are being delivered by the China Agricultural Research Service (CARS) to farmers in these regions.

'Feizixiao' ('Fay Zee Siu') is the most widely grown cultivar in China. Most of the 'Feizixiao' orchards are well managed, with good infrastructures, good canopy control, plenty of nutrient supply, reasonable flower panicle pruning and finally good flowering and fruit set. Its production in the CARS covered regions was 180 300 t, 185 400 t, 214 100 t and 240 400 t in the years from 2010 to 2013, showing a trend of steady increase. **ST**

(by Houbin Chen and Xuming Huang, South China Agricultural University)

SPAIN

New mango and lychee varieties to diversify the production

The experimental plantation La Mayora, dependent of the High Council of Scientific Research (CSIC) and the University of Malaga, started commercialising some of its intensive productions given the budget cuts imposed by the central Government in recent years. The director of the facilities maintained by Paradores de Turismo de España at the town Emilio Mojón, pointed out that an agreement will come into force in the coming days to introduce new horticultural varieties and various subtropical species. "We are planning to introduce lychees and up to three mango varieties in our range. We wish to carry out a plan of action that is beneficial to both parties."

The manager of La Mayora, Antonio Cordon, explains that once the research stage is complete for the lychees and mangoes adapted to La Axarquía's conditions, "the main goal will be to promote the products for consumers to become acquainted with them. Paradores de España is a great showcase for still unknown varieties, both for consumers and growers."

Cordon explains that La Axarquía is backing some very specific varieties. "If growers diversify, for example with mangoes, they can extend the campaign from September to November, harvesting at both those times and increasing the chances for a successful sale of their produce," he stresses.

The experimental plantation also allows growers to visit the facilities regularly to enable them to become well acquainted with the new fruit varieties. **ST**

(Source: laopiniondemalaga; shortened; published 2 October 2013)