

- ❖ Australia's orange production for the 2013-2014 seasons is forecasted to exceed the previous season's production.
- ❖ Australia's top Mango growers in Northern Territory are reporting poor growing conditions suggesting production volumes decline by 50% from 2012.
- ❖ Exports of blueberries in 2013 increased because of the arrival of fruit from Tucuman to the European market and the installation of a cold chamber that became a decisive factor for the quality of exports.
- ❖ The growers of garlic in Argentina are concerned about the increase in production volumes as there is no significant movement in terms of exports.
- ❖ Research shows that cabbage is grown on around 430,000 hectares in Europe. Of this area only 5% is used for cultivating sprouts. In Belgium sprouts for the frozen industry are grown on 2,100 hectares. This is 75% of the total cultivation area for frozen sprouts in Europe.
- ❖ Starting January first this year, a total of 606 products that Chile exports to South Korea and Japan no longer have to pay tariffs due to the free trade agreements signed with these Asian countries
- ❖ According to FAO data, Italy is the third producer of cauliflowers in the world, right after China and India. Cauliflowers in Italy are grown on around 18,000 hectares and other big producers in Europe are Spain, France and Poland.
- ❖ Students of the Technological Institute of Orizaba (ITO), guided by Dr. Oscar Osvaldo Sandoval Gonzalez, developed a conveyor of limes that will benefit the industrial sector as it facilitates the selection process and avoid production mistakes.
- ❖ MCR Machinery installed a new carrot washer at M&B Peen in Kraggenburg, The Netherlands. This maintenance friendly washer is a so-called dry washer, which means that there is no water in the drum, but that the carrots wash themselves as a result of the turning of the drum.
- ❖ Early this year TOMRA Sorting Solutions introduced a whole new potato sorter on the market. The FPS (Field Potato Sorter) is the first effective optical sorter for unwashed potatoes. The machine uses BSI (Biometric Signature Identification) technology to separate earth, stones and other materials from the potatoes. It also removes rotten potatoes.
- ❖ Poor conditions have forced Fresno County lettuce growers to scale back production. Less water and diseases have forced local farmers to reduce lettuce production by nearly 50% from last year. Officials say the county's once \$40 million crop now stands at a mere \$28 million. Preliminary estimates show acreage falling from 8,200 acres last year to just 4,400. ◆

