

Moroccan Clementines

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Fresh Fruit Maroc of Morocco and Dominion Citrus Limited of Canada returned to the Port of Wilmington with a three-year agreement for shipments of Moroccan clementines during the October to late December season. This is the fourth consecutive year that break-bulk reefer vessels carrying pallets of this sweet and very popular fruit have called in Wilmington.

Three group members of the Fresh Fruit Maroc co-operative – Agri-Souss (Agadir), G.P.A. (Agadir), and B.G.F. (Berkane) – grow the clementines handled by Wilmington. The Fina clementine variety was imported this year. It is grown throughout Morocco with production concentrated in the southern region of Agadir and the northern region of Berkane. Eighty percent of its cargo is shipped by break bulk reefer vessels to Wilmington.

Clementine imports hit a record volume this fall with the Port discharging seven vessels and more than 12,000 pallets. Ship calls and cargo volumes have grown steadily since the start-up of this business in 1999.

“The increased volume is attributed to new marketing opportunities that have developed for “Maroc” clementines in the American and Canadian markets,” explained Tom Keefer, the Port’s Director of Marketing and Trade Development.

Upon discharge from the vessel, the clementines are loaded into Wilmington’s dockside cold storage facility while awaiting transportation and distribution to Canada where they are marketed to several major supermarket chains.

According to Jacques Lavergne, CEO of Dominion Citrus Limited, “The Port of Wilmington has excellent transportation infrastructure and warehouse facilities and, with over 85

percent of our customers in close proximity, the Port of Wilmington is an ideal distribution hub for our product.”

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Plans

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