

Sunkist



news release

Immediate Release

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Tim Lindgren unanimously elected President of Sunkist Growers

Sherman Oaks, Calif. (Sept 20, 2006)..... The Board of Directors of Sunkist Growers today unanimously elected Timothy J. Lindgren as president and chief executive officer of the country's oldest and largest citrus marketing cooperative.

A veteran of Sunkist and the produce industry, Lindgren is the former President of Fruit Growers Supply Company (FGS), a sister cooperative affiliate of Sunkist involved in agricultural supplies, packaging and timberland management, a position he held for 26 years before retiring in 2003. With 31 years of experience with the Sunkist/FGS system, Lindgren has extensive operational knowledge of all aspects of the Sunkist system and is well known in the U.S. agricultural industry.

Lindgren was appointed Executive Vice President in April to aid in the transition to new company leadership when former president Jeff Gargiulo decided not to renew his contract in order to devote more time to his wine business. When Gargiulo's contract expired in June, Lindgren was appointed Interim President and Chief Executive Officer.

"While serving as Interim President, Tim Lindgren demonstrated all the leadership, experience, dedication, and judgment attributes we sought in a new CEO. The Search Committee concluded that we could find no finer or more qualified individual to take the reins of our cooperative at this time," said Nicholas L. Bozick, Sunkist Chairman of the Board.

Lindgren's selection followed a nationwide search. "The selection committee interviewed a number of excellent individuals," said Bozick, "and they unanimously agreed that Tim's leadership capabilities and his depth of knowledge and experience make him the perfect choice. He not only very effectively steered Sunkist through the transition period of the past few months, he has done so while overseeing an excellent 2005-06 season."

Lindgren recently announced a realignment of Sunkist's organizational structure, providing a more integrated approach to operations and better utilization of the resources. Russ Hanlin was named Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing and Michael Wootton was named Senior Vice President, Corporate Relations and Administration. Hanlin brings 28 years of experience to the oversight of Sunkist's sales and marketing functions for fresh fruit and licensed products. He also oversees Sunkist's interests in its two LLCs: Sunkist Global Sourcing and Sunkist-Taylor, LLC, a new fresh-cut produce joint venture. Wootton, who joined Sunkist in 1997, now directs the cooperative's corporate communications, grower and government relations, research and technical services, food safety, human resources and administrative functions.

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Lindgren credited much of his success to the effort of Sunkist management whom he termed "some of the most knowledgeable and experienced in the industry" and to the dedication of Sunkist employees.

"I am honored to have been chosen to lead Sunkist," said Lindgren. "I am proud of being able to continue to give back to a system that has given so much over the years to the citrus growers of California and Arizona – and to consumers around the world who know and trust the name Sunkist."

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*Sunkist is an internationally known citrus marketing cooperatives,
owned by and operated for more than 6,000 citrus growers in California and Arizona.*