

Gold Nugget Mandarin Hybrid

Origin

Gold Nugget is a selection that arose from a hybrid of Wilking x Kincy mandarin. It is a seedless diploid. This selection has been imported for evaluation in South Africa.

Ownership

Patent pending. Property of the University of California.

General Description

Gold Nugget is a late-maturing mandarin hybrid that combines medium fruit size, very rich fruit flavour and excellent production. It is seedless even when planted next to pollinating cultivars and does not cause seeds in other cultivars. The fruit has very good holding ability on the tree.

Tree Characteristics

Tree shape is moderately upright, with long vertical branch development. As a result, if trees are not pruned to form a less erect canopy, sunburn can be a problem. Trials have demonstrated that by pruning these vigorous vertical branches to form a more spherical tree, and controlling irrigation carefully, more fruit are borne inside the canopy which serves to limit sun burning and enhance the overall quality of the fruit exterior. Overall trees are vigorous, somewhat more so than most mandarins. Trees are relatively cold hardy and are thornless.

Rootstock Options

Suggested rootstocks are Carrizo/Troyer citrange although Gold Nugget is compatible with the most commonly used rootstock types. Rootstocks inducing low brix

low Brix levels, small fruit size and low acid are not advised.

Fruit Characteristics

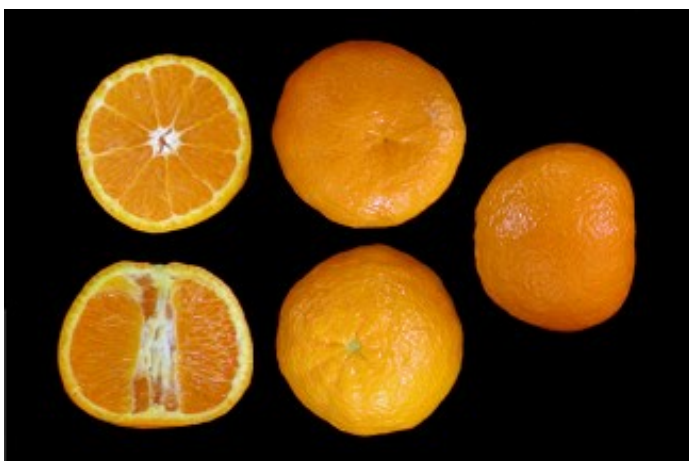
The average fruit size is medium to large in size varying from 72 to 55 mm (counts 1XX to 3). Rind colour is orange and fruit shape is slightly rounded with flattened stem and styler ends. The rind is pebbly and easy to peel; rind oil is not a problem. Rind colour in California is orange in mid February which should be mid August in a similar climatic region in South Africa. Fruit quality is very good, with high sugars and good acid levels. The fruit have very high Brix levels at maturity with moderate acid (1.0 - 1.6 titratable acid) which leads to very good holding ability on the tree past maturity and good storage capabilities after harvest. This cultivar is a seedless diploid.

Production

Production ranges from 70 to 110 kg per tree in 7 to 9 year old trees respectively.

General

Light pruning of vigorous, erect branches is necessary to improve fruit size. This coupled with the heavy yields keeps the trees to a manageable size with 10 year old trees in the Ojai region of Ventura County, California being 2 metres in height and diameter at 12 years. Trees can be prone to alternate bearing which can be avoided if pruning and careful fertilization and irrigation practices are applied. Under Californian conditions, it is not sensitive to *Alternaria*. No specific pest and disease problems have been noted under Californian conditions. Harvest, packing and shipping requirements are as for Clementines and other mandarin hybrids.



Gold Nugget fruit showing typical shape and orange external colour - note pebbling of the rind.



Twelve year old Gold Nugget tree (tree height 2m) showing heavy crop of medium to large sized fruit.

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Status, Area Suitability and Availability

Experimental/semi-commercial - Gold Nugget is currently under evaluation by Citrus Research International and sufficient quantities are available from the Citrus Foundation Block.

Key References

The information in this fact sheet is based on evaluations by UCR.

Evaluation Data

Internal Quality - Gold Nugget on Carrizo citrange at sites in Central Valley, California						
Date	Juice %	Brix	Acid	Ratio	Seed	Colour
Mid February	50.0	12.8 to 16.5	1.00 to 1.60	9.2	Nil	1

Note: These data are from the University of California trials in various regions of California.

Count Distribution

Data still to be included. No data currently available.

Production

110 Kg per tree and 80 tons per hectare at 5.5 x 2.5m spacing.

Export %

Data still to be included. No data currently available.

Note: These production data are from 12 year old trees on Carrizo citrange in the Ojai region, Ventura County of California, USA.

Comments

The Gold Nugget has become popular in California and could prove to be of value to South Africa's late mandarin production and marketing.