

Palmer Navel

Origin

A seedling tree mutation discovered in the Bathurst area near Grahamstown in 1950 by Tony Lombard, an Extension Officer of the SA Cooperative Citrus Exchange (SACCE). SACCE was later to become known as Outspan International. This nucellar Washington navel was the only source of virus free material prior to shoot tip grafting so it was used extensively in replant situations on Troyer citrange rootstock.

Ownership

Open.

General Description

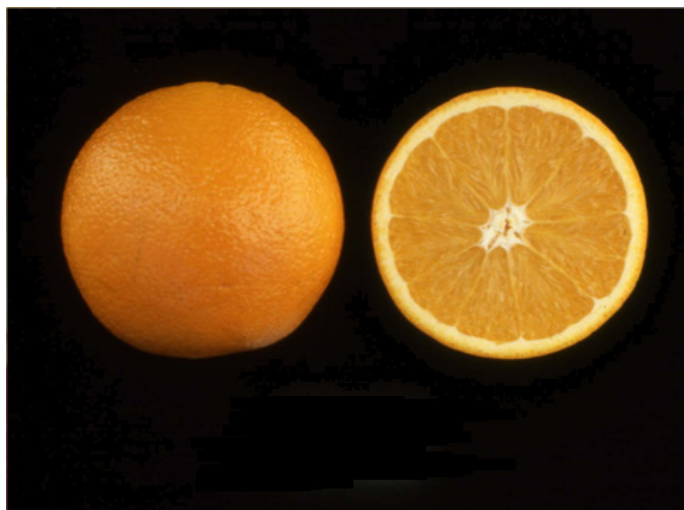
A mid maturing navel with very good internal quality and appearance. In the East Cape citrus areas fruit matures mid May to early June. This navel selection makes up a substantial part of the SA navel industry and as such is picked for 6 to 8 weeks in many areas leading to problems associated with harvesting immature or over mature fruit.

Tree Characteristics

The tree is similar in growth, shape and yield to other navel selections. Vigour is also similar to normal navels.

Rootstock Options

Although many older orchards are on Rough Lemon, suggested rootstocks are Swingle citrumelo and Carrizo/Troyer citrange, depending on soil type and whether plantings are on new or replant ground.



Palmer navel fruit showing typical round shape, rind texture and colour.

Rootstocks inducing lower sugars and acid levels are not advised.

Fruit Characteristics

Fruit size is a uniform medium large ranging from 85 to 70 mm and navel ends are small. The majority of fruit fall into counts 48 to 72 peaking at count 64. Fruit shape is round similar to average navel selections. The fruit rind colour is uniform and develops a deep orange at maturity. Peelability and rind oil are reasonable and similar to most other navel selections. Internal flesh colour is orange, and flesh texture is tender like other navels. The flavour is very good with high sugars, acid levels and a ratio of 10:1 late in May.

Production

Yields of 50 to 60 tons per hectare are normal for mature orchards. Young trees bear well.

General

The Palmer does not require crop manipulation and it is not susceptible to any pests and/or diseases other than those common to other navel selections. Creasing can



Eight year old Palmer Navel tree on Carrizo citrange (height 2.5m) under micro sprinkler irrigation.



Version 1: May 2012

be a problem, but much of this can be attributed to the extended harvesting season of this selection. Harvest, packing and shipping requirements as well as post harvest disorders are as for other navels.

Status, Area Suitability and availability

Commercial - suitable navel areas. Commercial quantities of propagation material available from the Citrus Foundation Block.

Key References

The information in this fact sheet is based on evaluations by Citrus Research International.

Evaluation Data

Internal Quality - Palmer Navel on Rough Lemon - Count 56 - Gamtoos River Valley						
Date	Juice %	Brix	Acid	Ratio	Seed	Colour
22/05/2008	48.5	9.8	1.13	8.7	0	2-4
29/05/2008	49.2	9.8	1.01	9.7	0	2-3
05/06/2008	49.2	9.8	0.93	10.5	0	1-3

Count Distribution

Count	36	40	48	56	64	72	88	105
%	0.4	4.6	10.6	27.8	30.7	15.3	8.5	2.1

Production

97.4 Kg per tree and 54 tons per hectare at 6 x 3m spacing.

Export %

Grade	Percentage
1	53.5
2	22.5
3 & 4	24.0

Note: These data are from 9 year old trees in the Patensie region of the Gamtoos Valley in the East Cape.

Comments

The Palmer has for many years been the main navel selection planted in South Africa. Due to its extended harvesting season with related problems some growers are abandoning Palmer plantings at this stage. Other growers have no problem with it. It is a very good quality navel that has carried SA through many years before other selections became available. This alone is not a reason to continue with it, but it will probably remain part of the navel mid season mix for many years to come.



Disclaimer: Information contained in this publication is provided as general advice only. For application to specific circumstances, professional advice should be sought.