

# African Sunset (B24) Mandarin Hybrid

## Origin

A seedling resulting from a cross between Ellendale and Robin, planted out at Addo Research Station, ITSC, Addo, South Africa in 1984. The resulting seeds were irradiated, producing the cultivar that was originally known as B24.

## Ownership

Patented. Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Crops (ITSC).

## General Description

A local, large and flat, high quality, well coloured, late maturing seedless mandarin hybrid.

## Tree Characteristics

The tree is moderately spreading and thornless. The trees are not heavy bearers and there is a possibility of alternate bearing under adverse conditions.

## Rootstock Options

Suggested rootstocks are Carrizo/Troyer citrange. Rootstocks inducing large fruit size, lower acid and drier fruit are not advised.

## Fruit Characteristics

Fruit size is large, 1X – 1XXX (70 – 85mm). The fruit shape is oblate and a small, closed protruding navel sometimes present. Depending on the area, the rind is smooth (Addo) to slightly pebbled (Citrusdal), where there is sometimes slight fluting of the stem end. Rind colour is dark orange to orange red, with a medium thin rind thickness. The fruit peels reasonably easily at



African Sunset (B24) fruit showing typical flat shape, rind texture and seedlessness.

maturity, sometimes leaving a little albedo and oily. The flesh is a dark orange and cores slightly open to open. Fruit quality is very good, with high sugars and good acid levels resulting in a good ratio. Young trees can lack flavour. The fruit can be slightly raggy and juice percentages are lower in the Citrusdal area. Maturity in the cold production areas is late June to early July. The fruit is seedless, even in mixed blocks.

## Production

Production is moderate, although figures are still to be included.

## General

Manipulating the crop to increase the crop load should improve (reduce) the fruit size. There is sometimes minor fruit split and fruit drop has been noted. Can be



Six year old African Sunset (B24) tree on Troyer citrange showing typical shape (height 3m)



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Susceptible to *Diplodia* twig dieback, which can cause tree decline if girdled. Harvest, packing and shipping requirements are as for other mandarin hybrids.

#### **Status, Area Suitability and Availability**

This cultivar has only been planted in experimental and semi commercial blocks in the cold citrus production areas of South Africa. There are only limited data. Large fruit size and insufficient fruit set may be limiting factors. Commercial quantities of propagation material are 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 - African Sunset on Troyer citrange - Count 1XX/1XXX - Eastern Cape						
Date	Juice %	Brix	Acid	Ratio	Seed	Colour
26/06/2008	59.3	10.9	1.10	9.9	0	1
02/07/2008	63.6	10.6	1.07	9.9	0	1
12/07/2008	60.1	11.4	1.10	10.4	0.2	1

#### **Count Distribution**

Data still to be included.

#### **Production**

Data still to be included.

#### **Export %**

Data still to be included.

#### **Comments**

The African Sunset (B24) is an excellent quality fruit that could be of value to the South African soft citrus industry. However, production is insufficient in existing orchards and fruit set improvement needs to be addressed.



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