

Aoshima Satsuma

Origin

An Owari mutation of Japanese origin. The selection was released in South Africa in 1993.

Ownership

Open.

General Description

This is a later maturing Satsuma, the leading late variety in Japan. Production and fruit size are generally good with a flat shape. Local information is limited. Maturity is early to mid May.

Tree Characteristics

Trees are of medium vigour, slightly larger than Miho Wase.

Rootstock Options

There is limited experience regarding rootstock choice in South Africa. Carrizo and Troyer citrange are suggested, depending on soil type and whether plantings are on new or replant ground. Poor quality inducing rootstocks should be avoided as well as Swingle citrumelo as this may delay rind colour.

Fruit Characteristics

Yields are good with medium to medium large fruit size. The fruit is quite oblate with a smooth rind. Flesh colour develops into a bright orange. The fruit can be slightly raggy. Rind colour develops later than internal quality. Maturity is around early to mid May. In general, Satsuma mandarins have a short harvest period which usually lasts 2 - 3 weeks although selective picking can extend this period.



Aoshima fruit showing typical colour, shape, rind texture and rind thickness.

Production

Production is good although figures are still to be included.

General

Deficit irrigation may be necessary to enhance sugar levels. As with all Satsumas, nitrogen should not be applied too late. No specific pest and disease problems have been noted under South African conditions, except for fruit piercing moths (*Serrodus partita*) that occur erratically approximately every 10 years. The moths live in the semi desert regions and in years when abnormally high rainfall occurs in the late summer the moths breed profusely due to over abundance of vegetative growth on the indigenous wild plum trees (*Pappea capensis*). This causes a migration of the moths away from their breeding grounds and in so doing they pass through regions such as the East Cape citrus areas where they cause varying degrees of damage on early maturing cultivars such as Satsumas.



Four year old Aoshima tree on Swingle citrumelo showing typical shape and growth with a good yield (Tree height 1.8m).



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Control options are limited and there is little that can be done to eradicate the moths once on the move. For further details refer to the section on Fruit Piercing Moths by S. D. Moore in the Production Guidelines.

Sunburn can be a problem in dry climates with terminal fruit being the worst affected. Wind blemish can reduce exportable fruit. Harvest, packing and shipping requirements as well as post harvest disorders are as for other Mandarins.

Status, Area Suitability and Availability

The Satsuma is the most cold hardy of all the mandarin selections. Aoshima has only been tested in Southern Africa's cooler coastal climatic zones on a limited scale and sites have not been ideal. Further evaluations are necessary. Limited 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 - Aoshima on Carrizo citrange - Count 1/2 - Western Cape						
Date	Juice %	Brix	Acid	Ratio	Seed	Colour
08/03/2011	56.2	9.1	1.78	5.1	0.3	8
06/04/2011	54.6	9.5	0.97	9.8	0.6	6
11/05/2011	47.8	10.9	0.67	16.3	0.4	1

Note: These results are from 5 year old trees.

Count Distribution

Data still to be included.

Production

20 to 25 Kg per tree on 5 year old trees.

Note: These data are from trial trees in the Paarl region of the Western Cape.

Export %

Data still to be included.

Comments

The Aoshima has been included in new trials to establish its value to the South African soft citrus industry.



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