

# Bennie Valencia

## Origin

A Valencia variety discovered in the Limpopo Valley by Guy Whitaker in the early 1980's in an old clone Valencia Late orchard. The fruit from these tree's coloured 4-5 weeks earlier than the Valencia Late fruit, had a low seed count, were uniformly round in shape and uniform in size and were significantly larger and cleaner in appearance than the Valencia Late fruit.

## Ownership

KGB Association PBR#ZA

## General Description

An early colouring, maturing Valencia with uniform fruit shape and size with high internal quality and skin appearance resulting in high export packouts.

## Tree Characteristics

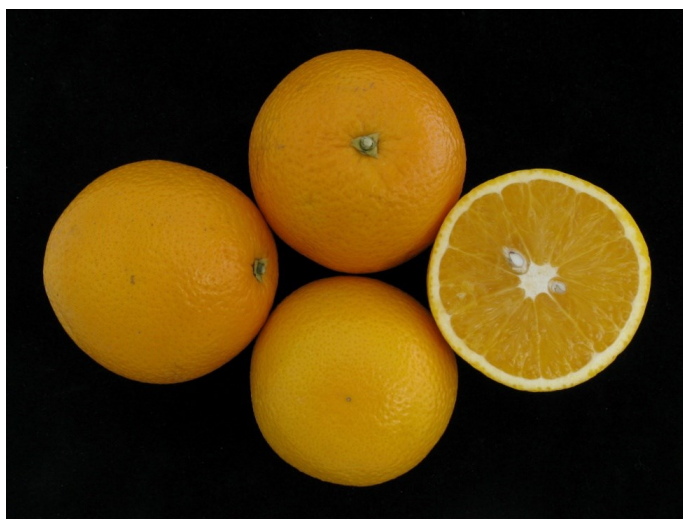
Since 2007 clean virus free budwood from the South African Citrus foundation block has been available resulting in normal tree growth & size for a Valencia type tree.

## Rootstock Options

Limpopo Valley : Rough Lemon, Swingle are the main commercial rootstocks used.

Letsitele : Rootstocks with high internal quality characteristics.

The most widely planted rootstock to date is swingle, depending on soil type and whether plantings are on new or replant ground. Rootstocks inducing lower sugars and acid levels are only advisable in hot, dry areas.



Bennie fruit showing typical shape, colour, rind thickness, rind texture and low seed counts.

## Fruit Characteristics

Fruit size and shape is very uniform with medium to large fruit with slightly coarse rinds on young tree's. Fruit shape is round and fruit rind colour is uniform developing a deep orange at maturity. Bennie fruit are easy to peel and rind oil is moderate. Internal flesh colour is orange and flesh texture is similar to most other Valencia selections. Internal quality and flavour are very good.

Maturity is from mid-June onwards. The majority of the fruit vary from 90 to 80mm (Count 48 to 64). Seed counts are from 3 to 5 per fruit.

## Production

Yields are generally very good with an average yield for mature orchards of 60 to 80 tons per hectare with many examples of yields either side of 100 tons per hectare.

## General

Bennie does not require crop manipulation. Harvest packing and shipping requirements as well as postharvest disorders are similar for other Valencia's. Rind pitting skin disorders have been reported on tree's planted prior to 2007.



Three year old Bennie tree showing spreading growth and good production (tree height 1.5m).

**Updated: April 2018**

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## Key References

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

## Evaluation Data

Internal Quality - Benny on Rough lemon - Weipe 2017						
Date	Year Planted	Juice %	Brix	Acid	Ratio	Colour
13/14 June	1997	54	11.5	1.12	10.3	T1-2
5 July	1997	58	12.3	1.19	10.3	T1-2
10/13 July	1993	59	12.3	1.07	11.5	T1-2
14/18 July	2012	58	10.2	1.05	9.7	T1-2

Internal Quality Avg- Benny on Rough lemon (various orchards) - Pont Drift 2017						
Date	Year Planted	Juice %	Brix	Acid	Ratio	Colour
7 July	2000	56.6	10.0	1.04	9.6	T1-2
1 August	2000	57.4	10.8	0.99	10.9	T1-2
2 August	2000	58.6	10.3	0.94	11.0	T1-2
3 August	2000	57.1	10.5	0.92	11.4	T1-2
7 August	2000	58.8	10.5	1.01	10.4	T1-2
8 August	2000	59.1	10.9	1.08	10.1	T1-2
9 August	2000	59.1	11.0	1.06	10.4	T1-2
14 August	2000	62.1	11.6	1.15	10.1	T1-2

### Count Distribution (Pont Drift planted 2000 on RL)

Count	36	40	48	56	64	72	88	105	125
% 2017	1.5	4	10	25	27	18	14	2	0

## Production

For mature orchards an average of 60 to 80 tons per hectare can be expected with many examples of yields either side of 100 tons per hectare. Generally a high yielding variety.

### Export % (Pont Drift planted 2000 on RL)

Grade	Percentage 2016	Percentage 2017
1	65-70	65-70
2	10-15	10-15
Rest (factory)	15-25	15-25

## Comments

The Citrus Growers Association 2016 Industry Statistics indicate 2284 hectares planted to Bennie Valencia making it the 5<sup>th</sup> most planted Valencia in Southern Africa.