

Delta Valencia

Origin

The Delta is a South African selection discovered in the Rustenburg area in 1952. As the old clone was infected with Citrus Exocortis Virus (CEV) a nucellar line was developed and planted on a fairly large scale in the Sundays River Valley area of the East Cape. The lower acid levels resulted in the fruit meeting the minimum export standard earlier than other Valencia's, which helped extend the beginning of the Valencia season. Once the old clone Delta had undergone virus eradication it was preferred to the nucellar selection, which was still exhibiting some of its juvenile characteristics. In view of its seedlessness the Delta was marketed as Delta Seedless provided that it met the higher Brix level and ratio set for this cultivar.

Ownership

Open.

General Description

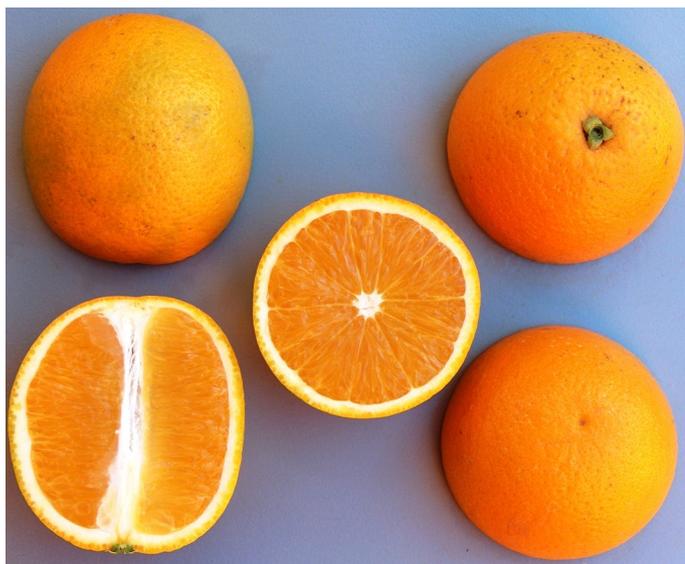
An earlier maturing Valencia with good internal quality and appearance. In the East Cape citrus areas fruit matures early to mid August, while in the warmer regions maturity is early to mid June. The Delta makes up a substantial part of the SA Valencia industry.

Tree Characteristics

The tree is vigorous and fairly erect; it is similar in yield to most other Valencia selections.

Rootstock Options

As the Delta has marginally lower Brix levels than other



Delta fruit showing typical shape, rind texture, colour, thin rinds and seedlessness.

Valencia's, it is only recommended on Swingle citrumelo and Carrizo/Troyer citrange, depending on soil type and whether plantings are on new or replant ground. Rootstocks inducing lower sugars and acid levels are not acceptable.

Fruit Characteristics

Fruit size is a uniform medium to medium large with smooth rinds. Fruit shape is round to slightly elongated and fruit rind colour is uniform developing a deep orange at maturity. Deltas peel fairly easily and rind oil is reasonable. Internal flesh colour is orange and flesh texture is softer than most other Valencia's. On the correct rootstocks the flavour is very good with high sugars, acid levels and a ratio of 10:1 in early to mid August in cool areas and early to mid July in warm areas. The majority of fruit vary from 82 to 65 mm (counts 56 to 105).

Production

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



Eight year old Delta tree on Carrizo citrange showing typical shape and yield (height 3 m).

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General

Generally the Delta does not require crop manipulation in the cold areas, although in years when fruit set is high it may be necessary to reduce the crop to ensure acceptable fruit size is obtained. In the warm areas GA sprays or girdling may be required to ensure acceptable fruit set. Harvest, packing and shipping requirements as well as post harvest disorders are as for other Valencias.

Status, Area Suitability and Availability

Commercial - suitable Valencia areas. 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 - Delta on Troyer citrange - Count 72/88 - CFB						
Date	Juice %	Brix	Acid	Ratio	Seed	Colour
07/08/2008	56.3	11.2	1.25	9.0	0	1
28/08/2008	52.9	11.0	1.21	9.1	0	1
02/09/2008	52.0	11.6	1.15	10.1	0	1

Note: In the East Cape Citrus Regions maturity is approximately 3 weeks earlier than the CFB.

Count Distribution

Count	48	56	65	72	88	105/125	144
%	1.9	3.8	13.7	29.0	24.2	14.7	12.7

Production

78 Kg per tree and 52 tons per hectare at 6 x 2.5 m spacing.

Export %

Grade	Percentage
1	54.5
2	40.7
3 & 4	4.8

Note: These data are from Tambuti Estate in Swaziland for the 2010 season.

Comments:

The Delta has for many years now been one of the main Valencia selections planted in South Africa. Due to its good production and seedlessness it has become known in discerning export markets. It is a good quality Valencia that currently comprises nearly 30% of total Valencia plantings.