

Fairchild Mandarin Hybrid

Origin

A Clementine mandarin X Orlando tangelo hybrid developed by J. R. Furr of the U.S. Department of Agriculture at Indio, California. The cultivar was released in the USA in 1964 and imported into South Africa in 1973.

Ownership

Open.

General Description

A late maturing Clementine mandarin hybrid. The fruit is high quality, maturing after Clementine selections.

Tree Characteristics

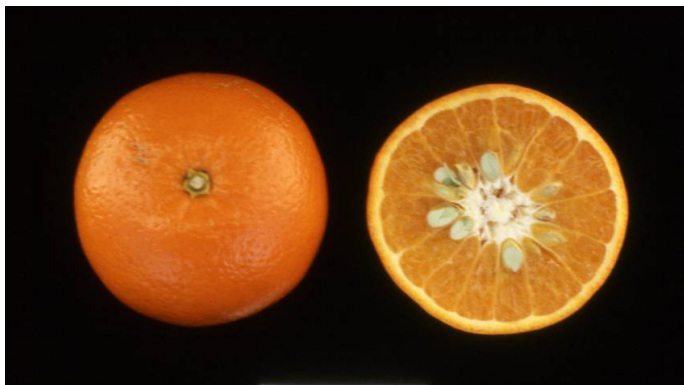
The tree is fairly vigorous with an open growth habit but dense foliage. The leaves are Clementine-like and can be paler in colour. High temperatures during fruit set could cause excessive fruit drop and pollination is not desired to avoid high seed counts.

Rootstock Options

Suggested rootstocks are Carrizo/Troyer citrange. However the cultivar is performing well on Rough lemon in sandy soils in the Citrusdal area. Rootstocks inducing small fruit size, lower acid and later colour are not advised.

Fruit Characteristics

Fruit size is medium but larger than a Clementine. The fruit is flattish-round with a smooth rind texture. The fruit is firm and has a thin rind making peeling difficult. The peel breaks up resulting in a messy fruit and causing oil



Fairchild showing high seed count in presence of pollinator.
Note: Seedless when not pollinated.

contamination of the segments. The rind develops a deep orange-red colour resulting in an attractive fruit. Fruit quality is good, with high sugars and good acid levels that are retained and the fruit can hang well on the tree. Maturity in the cold production areas is around mid to late June, after Clementines.

Production

Production is good, however figures are still to be included.

General

Pruning is necessary to reduce the tree density, let in more light and improve fruit size. Gibberellic acid may be necessary to assist with fruit set. Harvest, packing and shipping requirements are as for Clementines and other mandarin hybrids.

Status, Area Suitability and Availability

This selection has only been produced successfully in limited quantities in the Citrusdal area, a cold citrus production area of South Africa. It is produced mainly in desert areas in California and Arizona. 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

Data still to be included.

Count Distribution

Data still to be included.

Production

Data still to be included.

Export %

Data still to be included.

Comments

The Fairchild is not likely to play a role in the South African soft citrus industry due to its negative characteristics.



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

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