

Imamura Satsuma

Origin

Of Japanese origin, originating from an Owari Satsuma. Budwood was first released around 1982 in South Africa.

Ownership

Open.

General Description

A late maturing selection, with good sugars and acid, maturing towards the end of May in a cool citrus production area. The trees are vigorous, with fair to good yields of medium and large fruit size. A trial has now been established to test later maturing selections.

Tree Characteristics

The trees are vigorous, dense and sometimes thorny and become large to extra large with a more upright growth habit than other selections. The trees are slow in coming into production, but produce fair to good crops.

Rootstock Options

Rootstocks tried in South Africa include Rough lemon, Troyer citrange, Australian trifoliate and Cleopatra mandarin. Troyer/Carrizo are suggested rootstocks, depending on soil type and whether plantings are on new or replant ground, as Rough lemon in some instances produced inferior quality fruit and Cleopatra mandarin inverted benching (scion overgrowth) even on young trees.

Fruit Characteristics

Fruit size is good and fruit is borne more singly or on terminals than in clusters. The fruit varies from smooth



Imamura fruit from young trees showing typical shape, colour and rind texture. Rinds are thick due to tree age.

to coarse with some high shoulders, depending on tree vigour and age. Internal colour is deep orange. Quality is generally good, meeting export standards early in the season with higher acid levels than other selections. If picked too early fruit can be immature and raggy, but if left to mature, the fruit then peels easily and cleanly without rag. Juice levels may be lower if fruit is hung too late. Maturity in the Cape areas is 3-4 weeks later than Owari, peaking from mid May to early June.

Production

Production is good although figures are still to be included.

General

Deficit irrigation may be necessary to enhance sugar levels. As with all Satsuma's, 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 (*Serrododes partita*) that occur erratically approximately every 10 years. The moths live



Four year old Imamura tree on Carrizo citrange showing typical shape and growth with a good yield (Tree height 2.0 m).



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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 Satsuma's. 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 cold hardiest of all the mandarin selections. The Imamura is most likely more suited to southern Africa's cooler coastal climatic zones and possibly the cool inland production areas. Data is limited. 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 - Imamura on Carrizo citrange - Count 1/2 - Western Cape						
Date	Juice %	Brix	Acid	Ratio	Seed	Colour
08/03/2011	51.5	9.2	2.96	3.1	0	8
06/04/2011	52.5	9.7	1.77	5.5	0	7
11/05/2011	55.1	10.7	1.03	10.4	0	2-3

Note: These results are from 5 year old trees.

Count Distribution

Data still to be included.

Production

10 to 15 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 Imamura 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.