

Lisbon Lemon

Origin

The Lisbon's origin is unclear, but from its name it is probably of Portuguese origin. Seed from Portugal was grown in Australia as early as 1824 and it was probably also established from seed in California circa 1874. Currently Lisbon constitutes nearly 5% of total lemon plantings in South Africa.

Ownership

Open.

General Description

A very vigorous, cold hardy tree, which is highly productive with good fruit size and quality.

Tree Characteristics

The tree is very vigorous with a spreading growth habit and more densely foliated, thorny and cold tolerant than Eureka.

Rootstock Options

It is compatible with a wide range of rootstocks, including trifoliate orange and citranges.

Fruit Characteristics

The tree tends to have a more concentrated bearing habit and can be harvested once or twice, from March through to May in the warmer areas and April through to July in the cooler areas. Fruit size is medium but slightly larger than Eureka. As the fruit tends to be borne more

inside the tree, it has more protection against environmental and pest damage. The shape is elliptical to oblong with a prominent nipple. The rind is of medium thickness and smoother than Eureka. The seed content is variable, being from 5-20 seeds per fruit depending on climatic area. The acid and juice levels are normally high.

Production

Production is good although figures are still to be included.

General

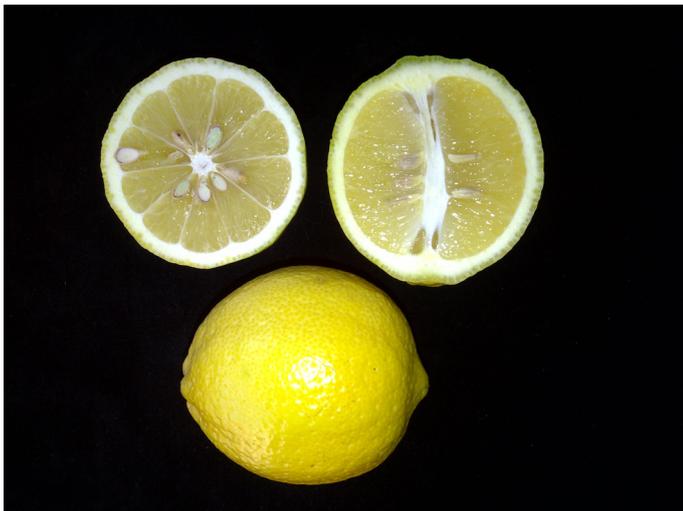
Lisbon Lemon does not require crop manipulation, however, exposed fruit is susceptible to sunburn and wind blemish. Thrips can be a problem in certain areas as well as Citrus Black Spot. Lisbon is fairly tolerant to greening disease. Harvest, packing and shipping requirements are as for other lemons. However, Peteca spot can be a problem in certain years. Endoxerosis which is a form of granulation can occur in well coloured, over mature fruit, depending on area and climate.

Status, Area Suitability and Availability.

Lisbon trees in South Africa are performing well. Area suitability appears to be as for other lemons. Commercial quantities of propagation material are available at the Citrus Foundation Block.

Key References

The information in this fact sheet is based on various reports from Citrus Research International.



Lisbon Lemon fruit showing typical shape, rind texture and seed counts.



Thirteen year old Lisbon Lemon tree on Swingle citrumelo showing typical vigorous growth and tree shape (height 3.2 m)



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Evaluation Data

Internal Quality

Data still to be included.

Count Distribution

Data still to be included.

Production

For 10 year old trees, 168 to 192 Kg per tree and 70 to 80 tons per hectare at 6m x 4m spacing (417 trees/ha).

Export %

Data still to be included.

Comment

The Lisbon Lemon is slightly less vigorous than the Eureka, but thorns are larger. To date the Lisbon has been a success in South Africa, particularly in the Sundays River Valley, the country's largest lemon production area. Because this lemon is compatible with Swingle citrumelo rootstock, this combination is a good choice in replant situations where nematodes are a problem.



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