

# Marsh Grapefruit

## Origin

A chance seedling of Duncan grapefruit discovered in 1860 in Lakeland, Florida. Marsh grapefruit was introduced to South Africa in the early 1900s while Frost Nucellar Marsh, the selection used by the industry, was imported in 1935. Marsh was initially planted extensively in South Africa, but plantings are now being reduced in favour of the red grapefruit selections.

## Ownership

Open.

## General Description

Marsh is similar to other grapefruit selections being productive, vigorous in growth and spreading in tree shape.

## Tree Characteristics

The tree is similar in other aspects to other grapefruit selections, except for Star Ruby which is a more compact tree.

## Rootstock Options

Suggested rootstocks are Swingle citrumelo and Carrizo/Troyer citrange, depending on soil type and whether plantings are on new or replant ground. Rootstocks inducing lower sugars levels are not advised.

## Fruit Characteristics

Fruit size is a uniform large to very large with smooth rinds. Fruit shape is round to flat, depending on climate,



Marsh fruit showing typical shape, internal colour and low seed counts.

and fruit rind colour is a pale yellow colour at maturity. Internal flesh colour is a pale off white to ivory colour. Marsh has low seed counts. The flavour is good with Brix of 8.5 to 10.5 at maturity and the harvesting period is from mid April to early June in suitable areas. The majority of fruit vary from 98 to 84 mm (Counts 35 to 50).

## Production

Yields of 60 tons per hectare are normal for mature orchards.

## General

Marsh does not require crop manipulation. It is not susceptible to any pests and/or diseases other than those common to other grapefruit selections, i.e. CTV. Harvest, packing and shipping requirements as well as post harvest disorders are as for other grapefruit.

## Status, Area Suitability and Availability

Commercial - suitable grapefruit (hot & humid) areas. While grapefruit demand has changed to red selections Marsh still makes up a substantial percentage of total grapefruit plantings. 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.



Twelve year old Marsh tree on Swingle citrumelo showing typical tree growth and crop (height 2.5 m).



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## Evaluation Data

Internal Quality - Marsh on Swingle citrumelo - Count 45 - Swaziland						
Date	Juice %	Brix	Acid	Ratio	Seed	Colour
15/05/2009	51.1	9.9	1.41	7.0	3.2	2-3
19/05/2010	46.0	9.7	1.38	7.0	3.4	2-3

## Count Distribution

Count	27	32	36	40	48	64
%	12	11	28	27	18	4

## Production

95.4 Kg per tree and 53 tons per hectare at 6 x 3 m spacing.

**Note:** Counts and production data from Tambuti trial on Swingle citrumelo during 2009 season.

## Export %

Grade	Percentage
1	90.5
2	1.4
3 & 4	8.1

**Note:** These data are from Tambuti Estate in Swaziland.

## Comments:

Marsh has good internal quality, but demand these days is for dark red grapefruit selections. Nevertheless Marsh still constitutes approximately one third of total grapefruit plantings in South Africa.



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