

# Midnight Valencia

## Origin

The Midnight is a South African selection that was discovered by a Mr A. P. Knight during the 1930s in the Sundays River Valley area of the East Cape, but it only came to prominence in the late 1970s/early 1980s. The high Brix levels and juice percentages resulted in the fruit meeting the minimum export standard earlier than other Valencias, hence the cultivar being named Midnight. This is in actual fact a misnomer as the Midnight is able to hang well and be harvested as other standard Valencia selections.

## Ownership

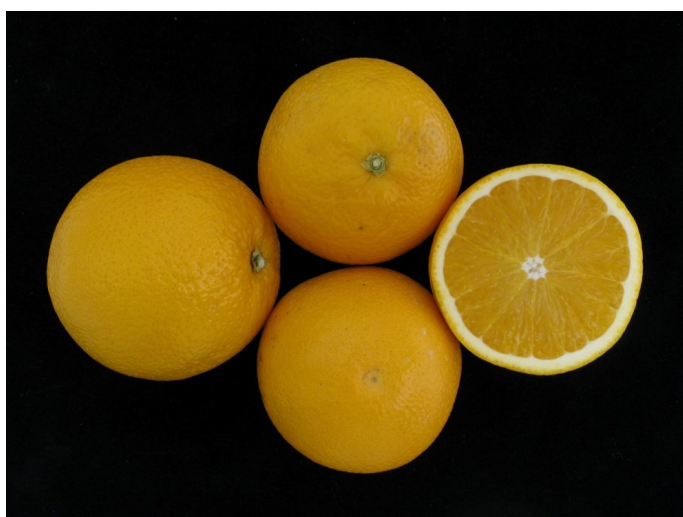
Open.

## General Description

A mid to late maturing Valencia with very good internal quality and appearance. In the East Cape citrus areas fruit matures mid to late August, while in the warmer regions maturity is end June to mid July. The Midnight makes up a substantial part of the South African Valencia industry.

## Tree Characteristics

The tree is less vigorous and more spreading in shape than other Valencia selections. Although originally considered to be a poorer bearer than the standard Valencia, comparative studies have shown this cultivar produces less, but larger fruit, resulting in similar yields, but higher export percentages. It can be prone to copper deficiency.



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

## Rootstock Options

Although many older orchards are on rough lemon, 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 and acid levels are not advised.

## Fruit Characteristics

Fruit size is a uniform medium large to large with smooth rinds. Fruit shape is round and fruit rind colour is uniform developing a deep orange at maturity. Midnights peel with some difficulty, but rind oil is reasonable and similar to most other Valencia selections. Seed counts are very low averaging below one per fruit unless strong pollinators are present when counts can be between 1 to 2 fruit. Internal flesh colour is orange, but flesh texture tends to be raggy like many other Valencias. The flavour is very good with high sugars, acid levels and a ratio of 10:1 in mid July in warm areas and mid to late August in cold areas. The majority of fruit vary from 88 to 70 mm (counts 48 to 88).

## Production

Yields of 50 to 60 tons per hectare are normal for mature orchards. Young trees bear well which tends to reduce tree vigour resulting in more compact trees than most other Valencia selections.

## General

The Midnight does not require crop manipulation in the cold areas, but in the warm areas GA sprays or girdling are required to ensure acceptable fruit set. It is not susceptible to any pests and/or diseases other than those common to other Valencia selections. Harvest, packing and shipping requirements as well as post harvest disorders are as for other Valencias.



Four year old Midnight tree on Carrizo citrange showing typical shape and yield (tree height 2m).

**Updated: May 2012**

Copyrights © 2021 Citrus Research International (Pty) Ltd. Reg. No. 2001/007745/07 All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, photocopied, stored on a retrieval system, or transmitted without the express written consent of the represented parties.

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



### 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 - Midnight on Carrizo citrange - Count 56 - CFB |         |      |      |       |      |        |
|--|---------|------|------|-------|------|--------|
| Date   | Juice % | Brix | Acid | Ratio | Seed | Colour |
| 28/08/2008   | 57.4    | 14.0 | 1.54 | 9.0   | 0    | 1      |
| 02/09/2008   | 57.0    | 13.5 | 1.43 | 9.4   | 0    | 1      |
| 11/09/2008   | 56.9    | 14.1 | 1.40 | 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 | 72 | 88 | 105/125 | 144 |
|-------|----|----|----|----|---------|-----|
| %     | 4  | 31 | 30 | 20 | 11      | 4   |

### Production

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

### Export %

| Grade | Percentage |
|-------|------------|
| 1     | 75.6       |
| 2     | 16.4       |
| 3 & 4 | 8.0        |

**Note:** These data are from 7 year old trees on Carrizo citrange in the Hectorspruit region of Mpumalanga for the 2009 season.

### Comments:

The Midnight has for many years now been one of the main Valencia selections planted in South Africa. Due to its very good internal quality and large fruit size it has become known in export markets and in discerning supermarkets is marketed under its own name. It is a very good quality Valencia that currently comprises over 22% of total Valencia plantings.