

# SRA Clementine

## Origin

The SRA Clementines are numbered Mediterranean selections established at the INRA Citrus Research Station, Stations Recherches Agronomique (SRA), at San Nicolao, Corsica. The SRA 63 as we know it in South Africa is similar to the Spanish Fina. In South Africa we have a range of SRA selections: SRA 63, 70, 84, 85, 88, 89 and 92. Most of these selections were released in South Africa in 1985. The SRA 63 was released somewhat earlier, with the first trial plantings established in various areas in South Africa in the first half of the 1970s and initially making up all the commercial plantings in South Africa.

## Ownership

Open.

## General Description

The selections produce well with medium to small fruit size. They are mainly mid-maturing and of high quality.

## Tree Characteristics

The trees are vigorous, forming large, dense trees with typical small Clementine leaves. Yields are generally good with medium fruit size.

## Rootstock Options

Suggested rootstocks are Carrizo/Troyer citrange. Rootstocks inducing small fruit size must be avoided.

## Fruit Characteristics

The majority of fruit fall into the 50 - 60 mm range, (Count 3 to 4), with a mean size of 55 mm. There is little difference between the selections, although the SRA 89 and 92 are reported to be slightly larger than SRA 63. In local evaluations, SRA 70 has proved to be different - smaller fruit size, earlier colour (1-2 weeks) and paler, a thinner rind, some splitting and of inferior quality. SRA 92 has slightly larger fruit size, although not as large as Nules. The SRAs tend to have smooth, thin rinds and are not always easy to peel. Colour, except for the paler SRA 70 is good and uniform. Flavour is generally very good and of the best flavoured Clementines, with high sugars and adequate acid. Maturity of all, except SRA 70, is a week later than Nules, starting from the second week in May to early June in the cold production areas. SRA 70 is up to two weeks earlier. The fruit is seedless in solid blocks, although seed in young trees has been reported.

SRA 63 fruit hangs well between 4 to 5 weeks after maturity (firm fruit, good acids and extended shelf life), compared to Nules with a hang limit of 3 weeks after peak maturity (puffy fruit, acids drop and shelf life problems). In the maturity table, SRA 63 matures before Nules but can be picked later due to this characteristic and no selective picking will be necessary (strip trees).

## Production

Yields of 40 to 50 tons per hectare are expected for mature orchards.

## General

Fruit thinning and appropriate pruning will be necessary to enhance fruit size. The SRAs are not susceptible to any pests and diseases other than those common to all Clementines. Harvest, packing and shipping requirements are as for other Clementines.

## Status, Area Suitability and Availability

The SRA 92 is the most suitable SRA selection for commercial planting; however, it cannot compete with Nules in terms of fruit size. SRA 63 was the most widely planted Clementine selection until the Nules and Oroval became available. The SRAs are generally not suited to the coldest of the cold citrus production areas due to small fruit size, but chemical thinning does improve size. Due to the excellent fruit quality and high Brix levels growers in cold areas generally have less cold damage to the fruit and are able to extend their season slightly due to the better hanging characteristics. However, keep in mind that the SRA 63 will achieve better size in the warmer parts of the winter rainfall region. Recently some demand has been shown for the SRA 63 selection. Limited quantities of propagation material is available from the Citrus Foundation Block.

## Key References

The information in this fact sheet is based on evaluations by Citrus Research International.



SRA 63 fruit showing typical shape, colour, rind texture and rind thickness.

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## Evaluation Data

Internal Quality - SRA 63 on Carrizo citrange - Count 2 - Gamtoos River Valley						
Date	Juice %	Brix	Acid	Ratio	Seed	Colour
13/04/2010	63.2	10.8	1.13	9.6	1.4	7
20/04/2010	61.4	11.0	1.03	10.7	0.4	6
04/05/2010	50.8	11.0	0.98	11.2	1.5	3-4
10/05/2010	66.5	12.8	0.85	15.1	0	1

## Count Distribution

Count	1XX	1X	1	2	3	4	5
%	3.0	5.5	12.5	18.0	33.0	18.0	10.0

## Production

70 Kg per tree and 45 tons per hectare at 5 x 3m spacing - planted in 1985

## Export %

Grade	Percentage
1	62
2	10
3	28
4	

**Note:** These data are from 23 year old trees in the Patensie region of the Gamtoos River Valley of the Eastern Cape for the 2008 season.

## Comments

Recent interest in the SRA 63 Clementine has resulted in its re-release into the Citrus Foundation Block.