

Samba Mandarin

Origin

An open-pollinated seedling of mandarin; possibly with a Clementine and a tangelo as parents. The exact origin is uncertain.

Ownership

XLnT Citrus company, Somerset West, South Africa.

General Description

Favourable growth habit making pruning relatively simple in addition to being thornless. Samba Mandarin is early-to-mid maturing, with harvest starting towards the end of the Nova season (late May to early June in the Western Cape and early April in the Northern Cape).

Tree Characteristics

The trees are vigorous with slightly upright branches and an open canopy as the branches hang open with a crop. No thorns on the bearing branches.

Rootstock Options

Currently Carrizo and X639 show no incompatibility. Alternative rootstocks are being tested. Rough lemon and Volk (vigorous rootstocks) should be avoided.

Fruit Characteristics

Samba Mandarin fruit are round in shape with no ribbing at the stem-end and a slight stylar-end ring. The rind is slightly pebbly and spongy. It peels easily (easier than Nova) but leaves a small amount of oil residue on your hand. Samba has low seed numbers, varying from seedless to 2 seeds per fruit (no cross-pollination), but will have up to 6 seeds per fruit when cross-pollinated.



Samba fruit showing typical shape, colour, rind texture, rind thickness and low seed content.

Fruit size ranges from 50 to 64 mm (counts 2, 3 and 4; ± 100 to 110 grams per fruit).

At maturity, rind colour is deep orange, between that of Nova and Clementine, and degreening should not be needed. Samba fruit are not prone to sunburn or fruit splitting, but creasing of over-mature fruit can occur.

Production

Samba can over-crop in an on-year, resulting in lower flowering levels the following season. Alternative bearing patterns need to be managed by fruit thinning when a too heavy crop is expected. Flowering and fruit set strategies are similar to other mandarin hybrids.

General

Well-balanced ratio with outstanding flavour; high Brix and moderate acidity. Samba Mandarin is likely to have low susceptibility to *Alternaria* brown spot.

Samba has low levels of viable pollen and can pollinate other compatible mandarins. However, only a relatively narrow buffer block is required to produce low-seeded fruit.



Samba tree on Carrizo citrange showing typical upright growth habit.

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Status, Area Suitability and Availability

Samba is available for commercial plantings and performs well in the hot production areas with good fruit set and fruit quality (acid levels appear to hold well), little or no sunburn, fruit split or granulation. 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.

Evaluation Data

Internal Quality - Samba on Carrizo citrange - Letsitele						
Date	Juice %	Brix	Acid	Ratio	Seed	Colour
25/05/2017	52.4	10.2	0.81	12.6	0	T2
16/03/2018	59.9	11.0	1.00	11.1	0	T5-6

Internal Quality - Samba on X639 - Tshipise						
Date	Juice %	Brix	Acid	Ratio	Seed	Colour
03/05/2017	53.4	11.5	0.89	12.9	0.1	T2

Count Distribution

Data still to be included.

Production

Data still to be included.

Export %

Data still to be included.

Comments

Samba fruit are juicy with high Brix content, moderate acidity, resulting in a well-balanced ratio with outstanding flavour and fairly low seed counts. Acid levels appear to hold well, even in the hot growing regions of the Northern Cape. Fruit responds well to cold storage.