

Shasta Gold Mandarin Hybrid

Origin

Shasta Gold (TDE 2) is a selection that arose from a hybrid of (Temple x Dancy) x Encore mandarins. It is a seedless triploid. It was bred at the University of California, Riverside (UCR) and after a lengthy evaluation period was released in California during 2002. This selection has been imported from California for evaluation in South Africa.

Ownership

Property of the University of California.

General Description

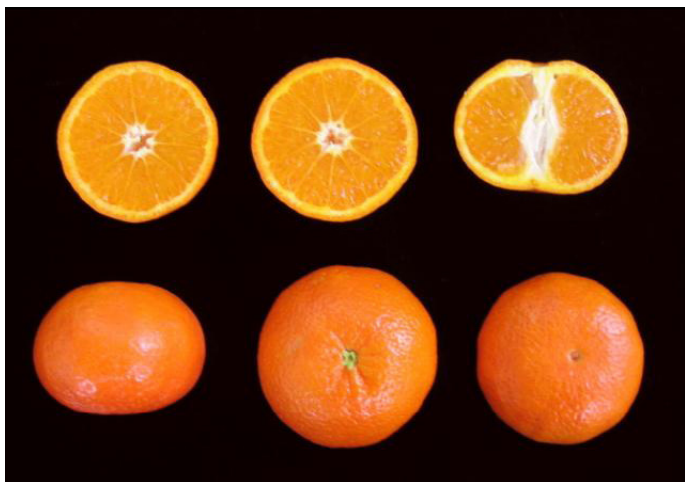
Shasta Gold is a late maturing mandarin hybrid and it is estimated that it will mature in cold production areas in South Africa in mid August and 3 to 4 weeks earlier in warm areas.

Tree Characteristics

Overall trees are moderately vigorous and tree shape is round, more like a navel than a typical mandarin tree. Trees are relatively cold hardy and are thornless when mature.

Rootstock Options

Suggested rootstocks are Carrizo/Troyer citrange although Shasta Gold is compatible with most commonly used rootstock types. Rootstocks inducing low Brix levels, small fruit size and low acid are not advised.



Shasta Gold fruit showing typical shape, colour, rind texture and seedlessness.

Fruit Characteristics

Fruit size is large for a mandarin averaging between 70 and 80 mm and internal quality is very good to excellent with a very rich fruit flavour. Rinds are smooth and develop a deep orange to red colour. Flesh colour is a deep orange. Production is good with some alternate bearing which needs to be managed. It is seedless even when planted next to pollinating cultivars and does not cause seeds in other cultivars. The fruit has good holding ability on the tree. This cultivar is a seedless triploid.

Production

Production ranges from 80 to 120 kg per tree in mature (8 to 10 years) trees.

General

Light pruning of vigorous, erect branches can be necessary to control tree size. This keeps the trees to a manageable size with 10 year old trees in the Lindcove region of Tulare County, California being 2.5 to 3 metres in height and diameter at 12 years. Trees can be prone to alternate bearing which can be avoided if pruning as well as careful fertilization and irrigation practices are applied. Under Californian conditions this cultivar is not sensitive to Alternaria. No specific pest and disease problems have been noted under Californian conditions. Harvest, packing and shipping requirements are as for other mandarin hybrids.

Status, Area Suitability and Availability

Experimental - Shasta Gold is currently under evaluation by Citrus Research International and only limited quantities are available from the Citrus Foundation Block.



Shasta Gold tree showing a more orange like open structure and good crop of large sized fruit.



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Key References

The information in this fact sheet is based on information supplied by UCR.

Evaluation Data

Internal Quality - Shasta Gold on Carrizo citrange at sites in Central Valley, California						
Date	Juice %	Brix	Acid	Ratio	Seed	Colour
Mid February	52.0	12.9 to 15.0	1.20 to 1.50	10.8 to 10.0	0	1

Note: These internal quality data are from the University of California trials in various regions of California.

Count Distribution

Data still to be included. No detailed data available - mean fruit size is 75 mm.

Production

70 Tons per hectare at 5.5 x 2.5m spacing.

Note: These production data are from the University of California trials in various regions of California.

Export %

Data still to be included. No data currently available.

Comments

The Shasta Gold is an excellent quality, late maturing cultivar that could be of considerable value in expanding South Africa's soft citrus industry.



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