

Tango Mandarin Hybrid

Origin

Tango is a seedless mandarin that originated from a selection of W. Murcott mandarin irradiated at the University of California's Citrus Breeding Program located at Riverside, California, USA.

Ownership

University of California is the owner of Tango and Eurosemillas has the foreign licence to manage the selection in South Africa.

General Description

Tango is a mid- to late-maturing mandarin selection, easy peeling and low-seeded (0.2 seeds in 25 to 50 fruit). The fruit shape is oblate and fruit size varies from medium (count 2) to large (count 1 to 1X) with a deep orange rind colour. The flesh is also deep orange in colour.

Tree Characteristics

The tree shape is upright when young and as the tree gets older and bears fruit, the tree opens up to become more spherical and thornless. Tango's pollen has very low germination (<1%), and as such is unable to cross pollinate. The selection is very tolerant to Alternaria.

Rootstock Options

Carrizo citrange, C35 citrange, Swingle citrumelo and X639 citrandarin.



Tango fruit showing typical shape, colour, rind texture, rind thickness and seedlessness.

Fruit Characteristics

Tango has a medium fruit size compared to other mandarin selections and the fruit shape is flattish-round. The rind is smooth with a natural waxy appearance. The rind develops a deep orange red colour with a light pink albedo. Tango develops a thin rind that peels easily with fairly low oil content. The internal fruit pulp colour is deep orange at peak maturity and fruit splitting rarely occurs.

Maturity in the warm areas is from mid- to late May and in the cool production areas from mid- to late July. The selection has good fruit quality due to high sugar and acid levels in addition to being juicy (> 50%), with a pleasant flavour. The fruit hang well on the tree without rapid loss in quality.

Production

Tango trees are precocious and orchards could produce very large crops and this should be controlled/limited to the 60 t/ha range, depending on the growing area and cultural practices.

General

The planting density (850-1000 trees/ha in California and no tree removal practices used as the trees mature) must be appropriate to accommodate the tree size (keep tree size relatively small) on the different rootstock options. Pruning practices are crucial to control tree size. Harvest, packing and shipping requirements are the same as for other mandarin hybrids. Fruit does well under cold sterilization and cold storage conditions.



Tango tree with a very good crop and medium to large fruit size.

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Status, Area Suitability and Availability

This selection has been produced successfully throughout all production areas of South Africa and is gaining popularity due to successes in all the markets. 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 - Tango on CC (planted 2010) - Letsitele | | | | | | | |
|---|---------|------|------|--------|------|-------|--------|
| Date | Juice % | Brix | Acid | Ratio | Seed | Count | Colour |
| 15/04/2017 | 50.0 | 11.1 | 1.39 | 8.0:1 | 0.0 | 1-1X | T5 |
| 25/05/2017 | 50.0 | 11.3 | 1.10 | 10.3:1 | 0.0 | 2-1 | T3 |
| 22/06/2017 | 55.2 | 11.9 | 1.08 | 11.1:1 | 0.0 | 1-1X | T1-2 |

| Internal Quality - Tango on CC (topworked 2013) - SRV | | | | | | | |
|---|---------|------|------|--------|------|-------|--------|
| Date | Juice % | Brix | Acid | Ratio | Seed | Count | Colour |
| 24/05/2017 | 58.2 | 9.2 | 0.8 | 11.8:1 | 0.0 | 1 | T6 |
| 19/06/2017 | 58.6 | 11.2 | 0.8 | 13.5:1 | 0.0 | 1 | T1-3 |

| Internal Quality - Tango on CC (topworked 2012) - GRV | | | | | | | |
|---|---------|------|------|--------|------|-------|--------|
| Date | Juice % | Brix | Acid | Ratio | Seed | Count | Colour |
| 20/06/2017 | 59.7 | 10.8 | 0.99 | 10.9:1 | 0.0 | 1 | T4 |
| 04/07/2017 | 62.9 | 10.5 | 0.95 | 11.1:1 | 0.0 | 1 | T3 |
| 17/07/2017 | 59.1 | 10.9 | 0.84 | 13.0:1 | 0.0 | 1 | T1 |

Count Distribution

Data still to be included.

Production

Data still to be included.

Export %

Data still to be included.

Comments

Tango will be a high value fruit due to good colour development, easy peelability, very low seeded fruit, optimal fruit size and a distinct flavour.