

# Temple Mandarin Hybrid

## Origin

The Temple is a Tangor (mandarin/orange hybrid) of unknown origin, first found in Jamaica. It was released and named in 1919 after W. C. Temple, who was a former manager of the Florida Citrus Exchange. There are two selections in South Africa, Sue Linda and Thoro, both imported from the USA by the ITSC in the early 1980s. The Thoro is planted commercially in South Africa as it has low seed counts.

## Ownership

Open.

## General Description

The Thoro Temple is a late maturing, large sized Tangor of high quality, which produces very good quality fruit in the warmer areas.

## Tree Characteristics

The trees are moderately vigorous with a dense, bushy growth habit and moderately thorny. Yields are good. Temple trees are cold sensitive.

## Rootstock Options

Suggested rootstocks are Carrizo/Troyer citrange in warmer areas. In cooler areas Rough lemon may be considered as it induces lower acid levels. Rootstocks inducing high acid are not advised. Swingle citrumelo is not recommended as there is a question of scion/rootstock compatibility.

## Fruit Characteristics

Fruit size is medium large to large, between 60 – 80mm with a mean size of 70mm. The fruit is fairly round to slightly oblate in shape, sometimes having a small navel. The rind texture is smooth to coarse, depending on the climatic area. It develops a deep orange/red rind colour in the colder production areas of South Africa



Thoro Temples waxed and packed showing typical shape, colour and slightly coarse rinds.

and yellow/orange in the warmer regions. The fruit often has a distinct colour difference between the north and south side of the tree with the fruit a deeper colour on the cooler side. There is also a slight difference in the juice colour which is normally orange. The fruit is not too easily peeled, the peel sometimes breaking into small pieces and the rind is oily. The rag is soft. The internal quality is very good with high sugars and high acid, which in cooler areas can be unacceptably high. If one waits too long for the acid level to drop, the flavour can diminish rapidly and there can be fruit drop. Maturity in the cold production areas is July and May/June in the hot areas. In the absence of pollinators, the fruit has from zero to about two seeds per fruit.

## Production

Production is good, however figures are still to be included.

## General

Temples are prone to alternate bearing if correct cultural practices are not applied. No specific pest problems have been noted under South African conditions. Harvest, packing and shipping requirements are as for other mandarin hybrids.



Thoro Temple tree on C35 citrange showing typical shape and good crop of large fruit (height 1.8 m)



Version 1: May 2012

### Status, Area Suitability and Availability

The Temple is grown commercially on a limited scale in South Africa, making up just over 1% of mandarin plantings. It is more suited to the warmer production areas although plantings do exist in the colder areas. Due to a lack in grower demand for this cultivar, propagation material is not currently 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 - Thoro Temple Mandarin on Troyer citrange - Count 1						
Date	Juice %	Brix	Acid	Ratio	Seed	Colour
21/07/2008	65.6	11.9	1.63	7.3	1.8	1
28/07/2008	64.8	12.0	1.53	7.8	1.8	1

### Count Distribution

Data still to be included.

### Production

Data still to be included.

### Export %

Data still to be included.

### Comments

Due to the lack in interest by growers and the availability of new, more favourable cultivars, the Temple is not likely to play a role in the South African soft citrus industry due to its negative characteristics.



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