

Turkey Valencia

Origin

A tree mutation discovered by Jim Saunt in a Valencia orchard in the Mersin region of Turkey during 1987. It was a single tree, approximately 6 years old, in a Valencia orchard bearing large, well coloured fruit of good flavour and low rag. Its main distinguishing characteristic was its earliness, maturing up to 6 weeks earlier than other Valencias in the same area. Its growth pattern, fruit texture and soft rag all point to this being a type of midseason and not a true Valencia. However it has been accepted as such and planted on a fairly extensive scale in South Africa.

Ownership

Owned jointly by CGACC and Citrogold

General Description

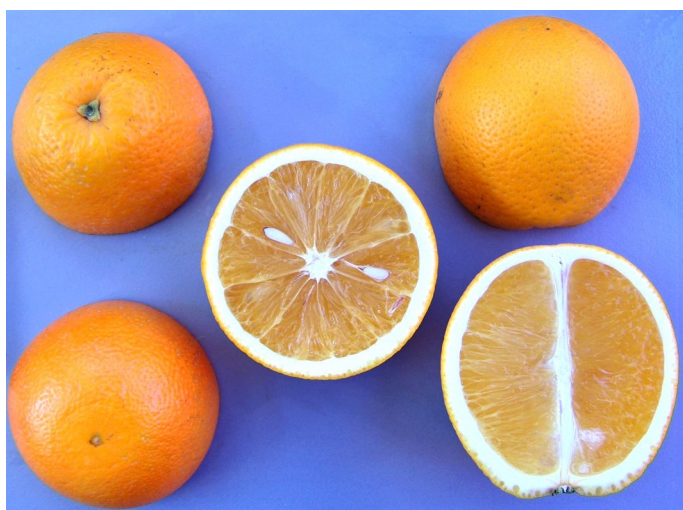
An earlier maturing selection with good internal quality, good fruit size, low seed counts and attractive appearance. In the Letsitele area fruit matures in early to mid June.

Tree Characteristics

The tree is moderately vigorous and is more compact and erect in shape than most Valencia selections.

Rootstock Options

Suggested rootstocks are Swingle citrumelo and Carrizo/Troyer citrange, depending on soil type and whether plantings are on new or replant ground. Rootstocks inducing lower sugars and acid levels are not advised.



Turkey Valencia fruit showing typical shape, colour, rind texture, rind thickness and low seed counts.

Fruit Characteristics

Fruit size is a uniform medium to medium large with smooth rinds. Fruit shape is round to slightly elongated and fruit rind colour is uniform developing a deep orange at maturity. Turkey fruit are easy to peel and rind oil is high. Internal flesh colour is orange and flesh texture is very soft in comparison with most Valencia selections. Internal quality and flavour are very good. Maturity is early to mid June in the Letsitele area. The majority of fruit vary from 85 to 70 mm (counts 56 to 72).

Production

Yields of 50 to 60 tons per hectare are expected for mature orchards. Young trees bear well.

General

Turkey does not require crop manipulation. Rind breakdown can be a problem if fruit is allowed to hang past optimal maturity. Harvest, packing and shipping requirements as well as post harvest disorders should be as for other Valencias.

Status, Area Suitability and Availability

Commercial - suitable Valencia areas. Commercial quantities of propagation material are available from the Citrus Foundation Block.



Thirteen year old Turkey Valencia tree on C35 citrange showing typical shape, growth habit and yield (tree height 2.5m).

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Key References

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

Evaluation Data

Internal Quality - Turkey on C35 citrange - Count 64 - Malelane						
Date	Juice %	Brix	Acid	Ratio	Seed	Colour
01/06/2010	57.5	12.70	1.01	12.6	7.6	2-3
25/06/2010	57.1	13.10	0.94	13.9	8.8	1

Count Distribution

Data still to be included, although size peaked between count 56 and 72

Production

50.0 Kg per tree on 5 year old trees.

Export %

Data still to be included.

Comments

The Turkey has been planted on a fairly extensive scale in South Africa and currently makes up nearly 9% of orange plantings. The early promise plus time of maturity of the Turkey have led to this situation, but now growers are considering earlier maturing Valencias to extend the season.