

Valley Gold (B17) Mandarin Hybrid

Origin

A seedling resulting from a cross between Ellendale and Robin, planted out at Addo Research Station, ITSC, Addo, South Africa in 1984. The resulting seeds were irradiated, producing the cultivar that was known as B17.

Ownership

Patented. Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Crops (ITSC).

General Description

A local, high quality, well coloured, late maturing mandarin hybrid.

Tree Characteristics

The tree is moderately spreading with small thorns, although the bearing branches tend to become thornless. Leaf shape is like a Clementine. Production is variable between the different observation sites in South Africa, but generally good.

Rootstock Options

Suggested rootstocks are Carrizo/Troyer citrange. Rootstocks inducing small fruit size and higher acid are not advised.

Fruit Characteristics

Fruit size varies from small to large (50 – 70mm (counts 4 to 1X and larger)). The fruit shape is more flat than round. The rind thickness is medium-thin, firm and slightly pebbled. The fruit is fairly easily peeled and leaves no albedo; the rind can be oily. The flesh is dark



Valley Gold (B17) fruit showing typical shape, colour rind texture and ultra low seed counts.

orange and juicy (with over 60% juice content). The rind develops an attractive dark orange to orange red colour. The external and internal colour is deeper than a Clementine. Fruit quality is good, with high sugars and tends to have high acid. Maturity in the cold production areas is early July to mid July. The fruit is not entirely seedless, often averaging less than one seed per fruit in a solid block. Fruit holds well in cold storage.

Production

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

General

Minimal hand pruning to open the canopies is the only practice currently applied to this cultivar. This cultivar tends to set very large crops, but fruit splitting results in a 'natural' thinning giving the trees a good crop of medium to medium large fruit. Harvest, packing and shipping requirements are as for Clementines and other mandarin hybrids.



Six year old Valley Gold (B17) tree on Troyer citrange showing typical upward growth shape (height 3.2m)



Version 1: May 2012

Status, Area Suitability and Availability

This cultivar has been planted in small commercial blocks in the cold citrus production areas of South Africa. Results to date have been so promising that growers in the East Cape are now expanding plantings substantially. Commercial quantities of propagation material are 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 - Valley Gold (B17) on Troyer citrange - Count 1/2 - Eastern Cape						
Date	Juice %	Brix	Acid	Ratio	Seed	Colour
02/07/2008	65.6	11.7	1.35	8.6	1.5	1
08/07/2008	63.2	12.4	1.20	10.3	1.8	1
15/07/2008	63.3	14.2	1.35	10.5	1.5	1
22/07/2008	61.9	14.6	1.26	11.7	1.3	1

Count Distribution

Data still to be included.

Production

Data still to be included.

Export %

Data still to be included.

Comments

The Valley Gold is a promising mandarin hybrid that should be of value to the South African soft citrus industry.



Valley Gold (B17) fruit packed for export showing excellent orange/red colour and seedlessness.



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