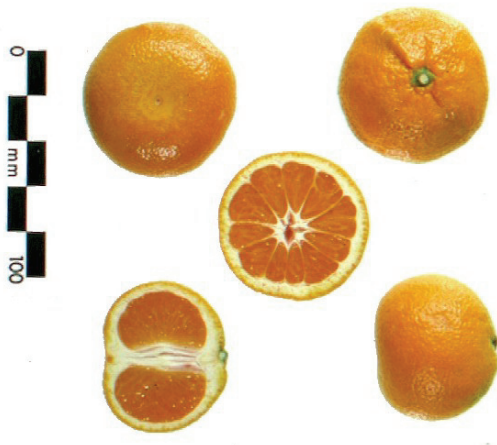


mandarin variety fact sheet

Clausellina Satsuma



Origin

Spain: a bud mutation from Owari satsuma selected in 1962. Imported into Australian quarantine in 1990 and first released to selected nurserymen in 1994.

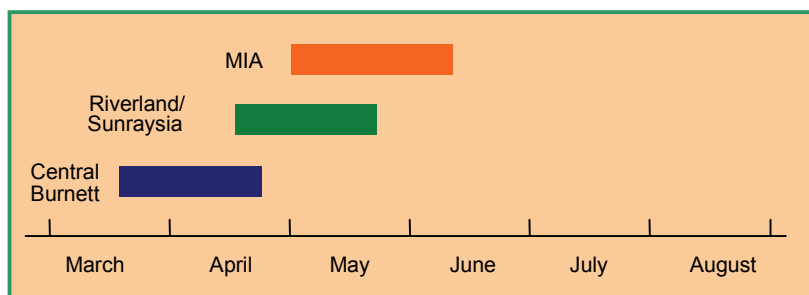
Type

Early maturing, easy peel, seedless.

Market

Fresh, domestic. Satsumas can be cool stored for extended periods so export potential needs to be assessed.

Marketing season (estimated)



Internal quality

Mildly sweet flavour with low acidity. Segments separate readily and can be 'chewy' due to rag content. Fruit does not seem juicy, but levels as high as 40% on Trifoliata rootstock have been obtained in preliminary testing. Juice content drops dramatically as fruit ages. Fruit is only at its peak for a short period and would have a 'market window' of 4-6 weeks with ethylene degreening. Fruit can become soft, dry and develop 'off flavours' 3-4 weeks after the skin has fully coloured.

External quality

A medium to large sized fruit with a slightly rough, pebbled skin that is easily removed. External colour is orange and is highlighted in mixed variety assessment plantings because of Clausellina's early colour break. Skin thickness on young trees seems particularly sensitive to nitrogen with 'puffy' fruit resulting from additional nitrogen fertiliser applications. Fruit size also increases significantly with lower fruit numbers held on the tree.

Postharvest performance

Fruit should be clipped from the tree. The stem areas tears easily with hand picking. Satsumas are ethylene degreened in South Africa and cool stored for prolonged periods in Japan.

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Field performance

First field grown fruit were produced in 1995 in arboreta plantings. Trees are small, open and begin bearing fruit very early on young trees. Over-cropping on young trees is a potential problem with hand thinning a management priority. Fruit size was not significantly reduced on young trees carrying a high crop load. Reduced tree vigour and growth rate would be the major concerns in over-cropping young Clausellina trees because they are a low vigour scion. Trees growing on Trifoliata rootstock could be classed as 'dwarf'. Trees have a low, open and spreading habit and would need to be high density planted to achieve sufficient canopy area per hectare for optimum yield.

Young trees are very open with fruit highly exposed to sunlight. Exposed fruit was sunburnt in early January 1999 when air temperatures reached 43°C on three consecutive days in Sunraysia. However, the high level of fruit set on Clausellina allows sun damaged fruit to be hand thinned with minimal impact on final yield.

Pest and disease

No specific pest and disease problems have been noted up to this point (January 2002).

Extent of plantings

Commercial

Some budwood supplied to citrus nurserymen.

Research

Research agency arboreta, small trials and trees planted for budwood supply.

State of knowledge



New variety to Australia, commercial potential to be determined, its popularity in Spain has declined. Satsuma mandarin interest in Australia has concentrated on Okitsu and Miho, not Clausellina.

Growers should ensure that trees are propagated from Approved Budwood obtained from AusCitrus.

Last Revised: January 2002

Disclaimer:

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

