

grapefruit variety fact sheet

Flame



Origin

A seed selection from Ruby Red grapefruit discovered in Florida in 1973. Subsequent selection in the 1980s led to the release of Flame in the United States in 1987. Imported into Australia from California and released from plant quarantine in 1994.

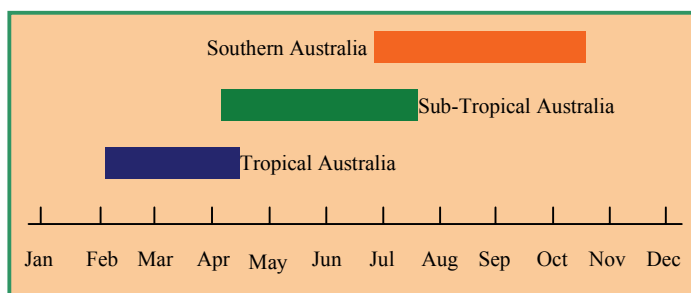
Type

Red fleshed grapefruit, low seed numbers

Market

Fresh fruit, domestic and export markets. Possible potential for fresh juice and concentrate production.

Marketing season (estimated)



Internal quality

In southern Australia the internal flesh colour of Flame fruit is pink/red depending on seasonal conditions. Red flesh colouration is less intense than Star Ruby and Rio Red, but Flame still has more flesh colour than established pink varieties Thompson Pink and Ruby Blush. Initial fruit quality assessment for red fleshed grapefruit in southern Australia indicate that achieving a Brix:acid ratio higher than 6:1 is extremely difficult.

External quality

Flame grapefruit has less external skin colouration than Rio Red and Star Ruby fruit. Fruit has fine rind texture and round fruit shape.

Postharvest performance

Postharvest performance of Flame grapefruit in Australia is unknown. Fruit grown in tropical and sub-tropical Australia require ethylene de-greening to improve external colouration (blush) of fruit.

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Field performance

Flame grapefruit is highly productive in tropical, sub-tropical and temperate Australia. Young trees produce heavy crops and come into bearing when only a few years old. Flame has tendency to produce smaller sized fruit than other red-fleshed grapefruit varieties. Long-term yield performance under Australian growing conditions is unknown.

Pest and disease

Highly susceptible to the Grapefruit Stem Pitting stain of tristeza. All propagation material supplied by Auscitrus is pre-immunised with a mild strain of tristeza as a protective measure against Grapefruit Stem Pitting. Flame grapefruit is susceptible to *Alternaria* brown spot under tropical growing conditions. No other specific pest and disease problems have been noted to this point.

Extent of plantings

Flame has been less popular than Star Ruby and Rio Red and there are only minor plantings in Australia. Demand for budwood from Auscitrus has been low. Oldest plantings in Australia are 6-7 years old.

State of knowledge



Growers should ensure that trees are propagated from Premium Budwood obtained from Auscitrus.

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Disclaimer:

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

