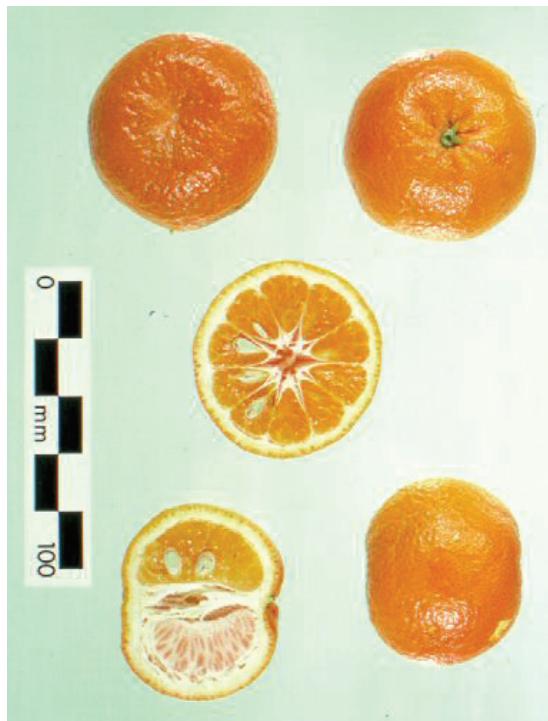


mandarin variety fact sheet



Hernandina

Origin

Spain, located as a bud mutation of Fina clementine in 1966 at Picassent (Valencia province). Imported into Australia in 1991 and released for trial establishment and budwood multiplication in 1994. Patented variety.

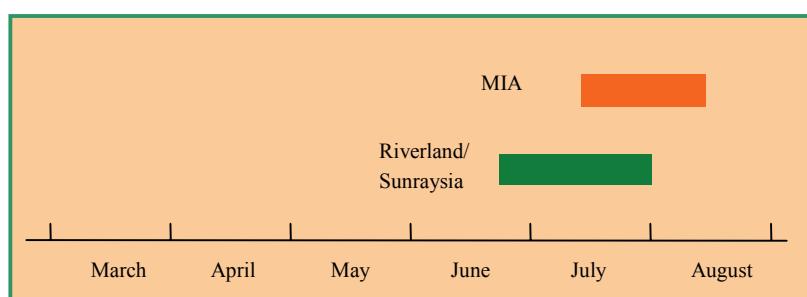
Type

Easy peel, mid season maturity, low seed number if isolated from other citrus pollen sources.

Market

Fresh, domestic. Potential as an export variety. Spain exports Hernandina to both Europe and the USA. Would follow Nules (also a Fina mutant) onto the market. It is reported that storage and small fruit size can be a problem with this variety.

Marketing season (estimated)



Internal quality

Internal maturity is reached well before full external colour is developed. Acid levels are low, giving the fruit a 'sweet' flavour. Some European markets prefer a more 'balanced' flavour and Spain limits its exports of Hernandina to those markets ie. France. Fruit produced in trial plantings is seedy (8-25 seeds per fruit) due to proximity to other mandarin varieties.

External quality

A feature of this variety is that a proportion of the fruit remains green at the basal end. Select picking can reduce this visual problem. South Africa has removed Hernandina from its evaluation program due to this fruit characteristic. Fruit is medium (6.5 - 7.5cm in diameter), slightly flattened with a fine pebbly skin texture. Skin thickness is typically 3mm - 3.5mm. Fruit can hang on the tree for a long period without visual deterioration, but internal quality is strongly affected by low acid levels and granulation.

***Hernandina* mandarin variety fact sheet**

Postharvest performance

Fruit should preferably be clipped from the tree. Concerns have been raised regarding the short harvest period and potential storage problems of this variety. However, a small volume of fruit was stored at 4° C for several months in 1999, with limited loss of external or internal quality. In Spain, early season fruit is de-greened to help overcome the decline in acid level as fruit matures.

Field performance

Field planted and reworked trees are vigorous, well structured and are currently not showing limb splitting problems as reported in the literature. Trees are productive but can develop a tendency for alternate bearing. Tree management by pruning and fruit thinning are critical to maintain clementine production and fruit size. Hernandina is often compared to Fina clementine in relation to fruit characteristics, but Hernandina exhibits stronger tree vigour and larger fruit size in southern Australia conditions.

Pest and disease

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

Extent of plantings

Commercial: Budwood distribution agreement has not been finalised with patent holder. Limited commercial interest.

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

State of knowledge



Initial observations suggest Hernandina has a similar flavour and general appearance to Nules but lacks its extended harvest period. The basal greening of Hernandina is seen as the major limitation to it becoming a commercial variety in Australia.

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.