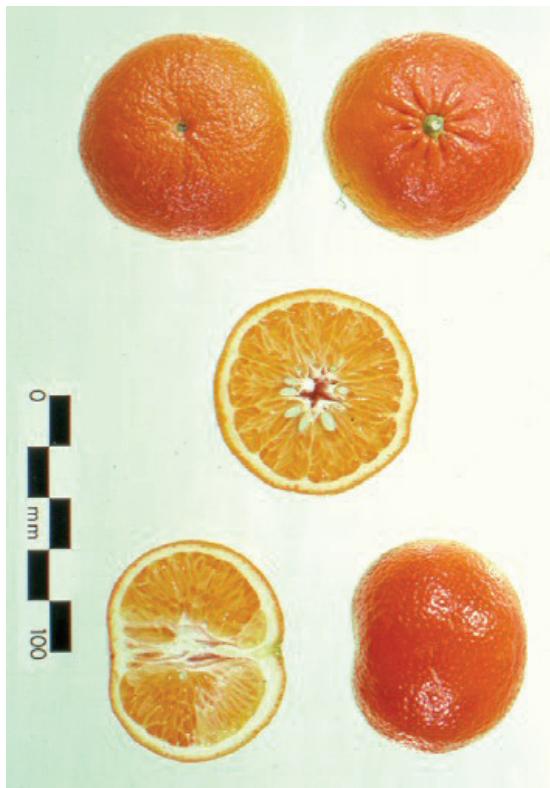


mandarin variety fact sheet



Nova

Origin

Florida, USA: a hybrid between Fina clementine and Orlando tangelo (Duncan grapefruit X Dancy mandarin) made in 1942. Introduced into Australia as a seed import from California in 1977. Re-imported as budwood from Spain in 1991, and released to selected nurserymen in 1994.

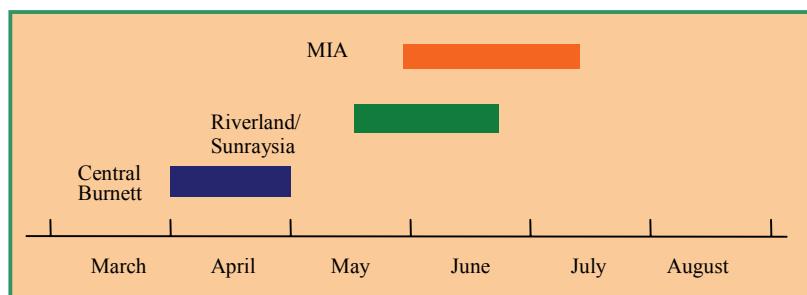
Type

Early to mid-season mandarin, seeded.

Market

Fresh fruit, domestic and export markets.

Marketing season (estimated)



Brix:acid reaches 7:1 in late March in the Central Burnett, mid April in the Riverland and mid May in the MIA

Internal quality

A sweet flavoursome variety with a fine flesh texture. It is reported to be self incompatible and hence seedless if grown in isolation from pollinating varieties. Seed numbers are typically 3-12 per fruit, but may be upwards of 30 per fruit in mixed arboretum plantings. Juice percentages in excess of 40% are often recorded in northern production areas, but southern Australian experience indicates problems with granulation. Fruit reach maturity about one week later than Imperial.

External quality

Medium to large fruit size, slightly flattened with a distinct red-orange skin colour. Skin texture is fine to medium and tightly adheres to the flesh making it somewhat difficult to remove. The skin is thinner at the blossom end which may contribute to the fruit splitting problems often observed in southern growing areas. These fruit splitting problems often commence well before maturity, and combined with granulation make it a variety not well suited to southern areas.

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Postharvest performance

Fruit should be clipped from the tree to avoid damage. The variety has a long postharvest life, despite the fact that it does not store well on the tree. It is a very firm variety that can readily handle orchard and packing shed treatments.

Field performance

Trees are of moderate vigour, almost thornless and quick to come into bearing. Fruitlet thinning may be necessary to increase fruit size. In southern areas, fruit should be harvested as soon as they reach maturity to avoid the early development of granulation. Avoid the use of Rough Lemon rootstock as it may enhance the granulation problem. In southern areas, pre harvest fruit splitting and drop is common and can reduce harvestable yield.

Pest and disease

Alternaria can be a problem particularly in coastal production areas.

Extent of plantings

Commercial

This variety is mainly grown in Queensland where there are some 15,000 trees planted, with most trees originating from the seed import source. The 1991 budwood importation is hoped to provide a low seeded, thornless selection of Nova to the Australian citrus industry.

Research

Trees from the budwood import are now widely planted in arboreta and replicated trials.

State of knowledge



An important commercial variety in Spain, Israel and South Africa.

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.

