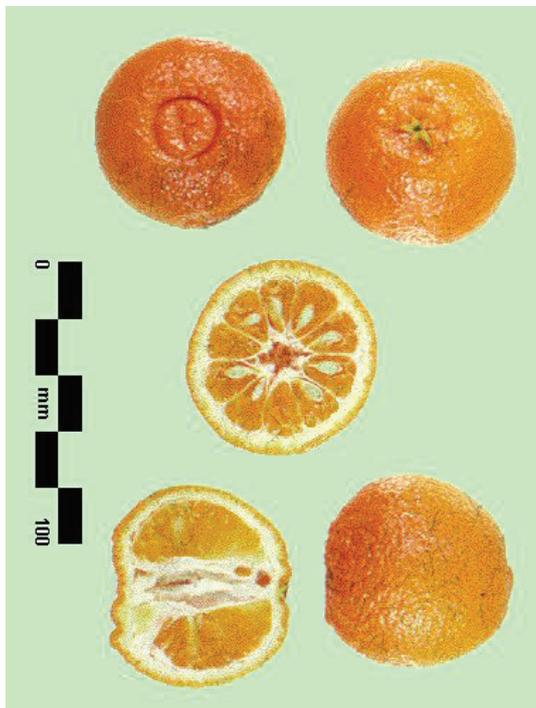


## mandarin variety fact sheet

# Encore



### Origin

California, a hybrid between King mandarin and Willowleaf mandarin released in 1965. Imported into Australia in 1990 and released to selected nurserymen in 1996.

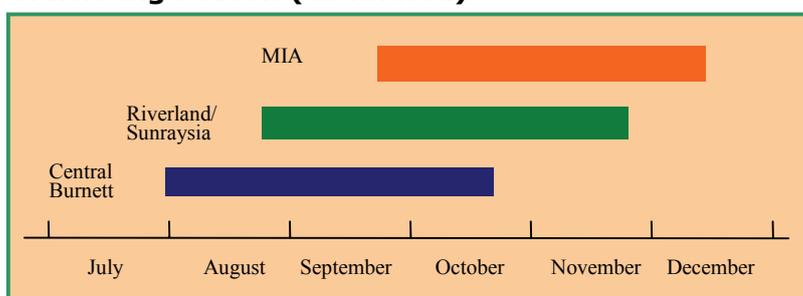
### Type

Very late season maturity, easy peel, seedy.

### Market

Fresh, domestic. Would be the latest mandarin on the Australian market if it became a commercial variety.

### Marketing season (estimated)



*Brix:Acid reached 12:1 on 9<sup>th</sup> August in Sunraysia in 1999, other areas still to be determined.*

### Internal quality

Very palatable variety with juice contents as high as 55% and brix:acid ratio of 16:1 in late September (Sunraysia region). Skin is thin and ranges from 2 – 4 mm. Encore is seedy and average seed number per fruit can range from 13-26. Fruit size is typically medium to large and is in the range of 7.1 – 7.8 cm diameter on hand thinned trees.

### External quality

A major problem in warm climates is the development of severe skin blemish. Encore has a sensitive, thin skin and an unsightly brown blemish develops on most fruit in warm – hot Australian conditions. The blemish is less evident on fruit from central New South Wales and Queensland. The blemish does not affect internal fruit quality or lead to fruit breakdown.

Fruit shape is flattened with a smooth to slightly pebbled skin texture. Fruit colour is yellow/orange and the skin is easily removed leaving little or no albedo on the segments.

### Postharvest performance

To avoid tearing the fruit should be clipped from the tree. New Zealand information suggests it has a short self life

## Encore mandarin variety fact sheet

and should be picked and packed on the same day. It may also have a susceptibility to soft rots.

### **Field performance**

Trees are vigorous and upright with thorny branches. Some fruit is lost because of rubbing on thorns. Branches tend to 'arch' over due to their upright habit and would require maintenance pruning to avoid limb breakage. Alternate bearing problems mentioned in overseas literature have not been experienced to date in Australian trial plantings.

Encore is grown commercially in both Japan and New Zealand. In the cool climate of New Zealand it is possible to hold fruit on the tree for up to 5 months and harvest through the summer, early autumn period. In Australia fruit grown on Trifoliata rootstock remained palatable to mid January in the Sunraysia region. Exposed fruit is sensitive to sunburn and should be hand thinned. The very thin skin often splits reducing the potential harvest.

### **Pest and disease**

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

### **Extent of plantings**

Commercial: No commercial plantings established. Budwood demand low.

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

### **State of knowledge**



The external skin blemish that occurs on Encore may exclude it as a commercial variety in southern Australia. Similar blemish problems have occurred in California with a major outlet for Encore trees being the domestic, backyard market.

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.

