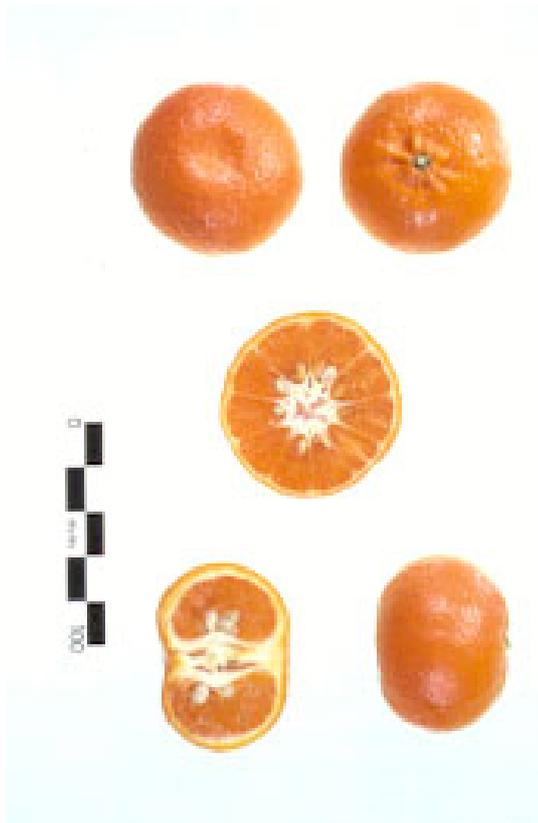


mandarin variety fact sheet

Ellendale



Origin

Burrum, Queensland approx. 1878. Seedling believed to be a natural mandarin x orange hybrid(tangor). Various clonal selections exist such as Koster, Herps and Robinson, and small differences in fruit quality have been demonstrated.

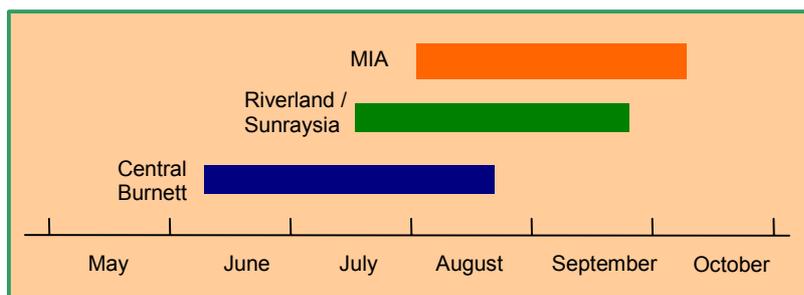
Type

Mid season tangor type.

Market

Fresh, domestic and export but currently declining in importance as a commercial variety. Variability in fruit quality has been a significant problem.

Marketing season (estimated)



Internal quality

Flesh has a high sugar content, but is also high in acid. Harvest and storage time have a large impact on the eating quality of fruit. Acid content declines during storage enabling shipment of this variety to distant markets where it can arrive noticeably more palatable than when it was picked. Seed numbers vary widely, with cross-pollination leading to increased seediness.

External quality

Fruit is large, with relatively smooth skin texture. Fruit from southern production areas is more difficult to peel than that from Queensland. External colour is deep orange. The skin is susceptible to spray, wind and leaf-rub damage. Fruit can be stored on the tree for an extended period however this is seldom practiced anymore because of the overlapping maturity of later varieties, particularly Murcott.

Postharvest performance

Fruit displays excellent postharvest storage potential, which has made it an important export variety in the past. It can be stored for upwards of 3 months at 3 to 4 °C without showing rind browning or other problems.

Ellendale mandarin variety fact sheet

Field performance

Trees have weak crotches and are prone to limb splitting. Limbs are sometimes tied and/or bolted together to prevent tree collapse. Alternate bearing can be a major problem with this variety.

On deep well-drained virgin soil, sweet orange is the preferred rootstock, giving excellent fruit quality. Troyer is preferred in replant situations, and Swingle has also proven satisfactory. Cleopatra and Emperor have been tried as rootstocks but are not as productive as Sweet Orange and Troyer. Rough Lemon is not recommended because of shorter tree life, and possible aggravation of the inherently high acid levels of this variety.

The satisfactory performance of this variety is apparently very dependent on environmental conditions. It has never been an important variety in coastal areas because of fruit marking, splitting and small size. High acid levels have been a problem in some cooler production areas. Careful irrigation management is important in the later stages of fruit maturity to avoid high juice acid levels.

Pest and disease

No specific pest and disease problems are peculiar to this variety

Extent of plantings

Commercial: Approx 192,000 bearing, with 48,000 non-bearing trees

Research: Widely distributed in agency arboreta, including a large number of clonal selections. Past rootstock and nutrition experiments in Qld and NSW.

State of knowledge

very
limited

very
high

Ellendale was once the main late season variety, and dominated mandarin exports. Murcott has emerged in importance to partly replace this position.

Last Revised: September 2002

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

Disclaimer:

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

