

lemon variety fact sheet

Fino

Origin

The origin of Fino lemon is unknown but it possibly came from an older Spanish variety. Fino lemon is also called Mesero or Primofiori in Spain. The variety currently available is Clone 46, imported into Australia from Spain and released from plant quarantine in 1994.

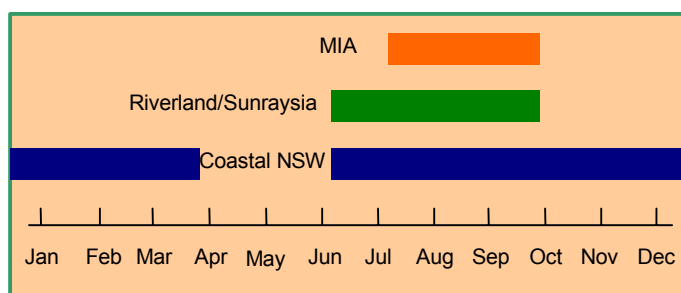
Type

Fino is a winter producing lemon, with production of one main crop in winter and early spring in southern Australia. In coastal NSW Fino produces fruit throughout the year, similar to Eureka lemon.

Market

Fresh fruit, domestic and export potential. Fino was imported with the aim of producing high quality fruit suitable for export to Europe between September and mid November when premium prices are obtained.

Marketing season (estimated)

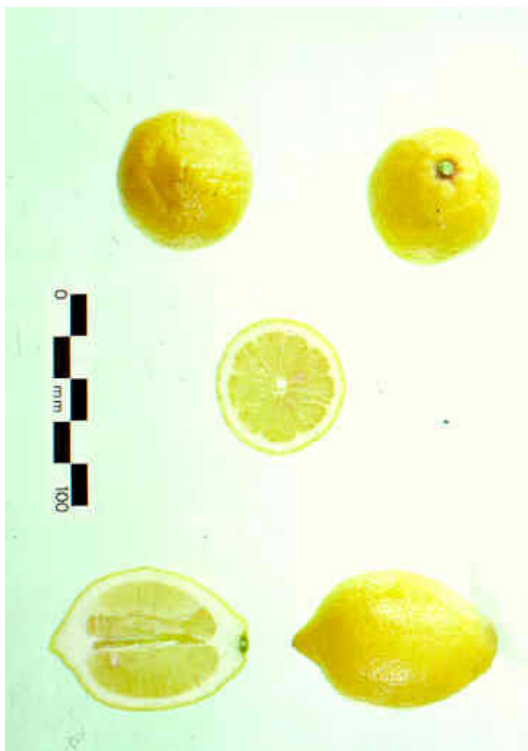


Internal quality

Fino lemon has a higher juice content, low seed number (averages five seeds per fruit) and juice acidity is high. Preliminary assessment of trial fruit at Renmark indicated that fruit grown on Benton citrange, *Poncirus trifoliata* and Sour orange rootstocks had the highest juice content and fruit grown on Rough lemon and *Citrus volkameriana* rootstocks had the lowest juice content.

External quality

Fino lemon produces small-medium size fruit, spherical to oval in shape with a smooth thin rind. The nipple is comparatively small and short. Rind colour is pale yellow to yellow. Preliminary assessment of fruit at Renmark showed that fruit grown on Benton citrange, *Poncirus trifoliata* and Sour orange rootstocks had the thinnest skins whilst fruit grown on Rough lemon and *Citrus volkameriana* rootstocks had the thickest skins. On the Central Coast of NSW Fino lemon produces smaller fruit than Eureka lemon.



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Postharvest performance

Early season fruit responds well to ethylene degreening in Spain. In a storage trial on the Central Coast of NSW, fruit were harvested in August 2000 and put into cool storage (10°C and 90% RH) until January 2001, a period of 20 weeks. The results indicated 22% of fruit spoiled largely due to infection by green and blue moulds and total fruit weight loss was 42%. These results indicate that Fino has similar storage performance to Eureka lemon.

Field performance

Fino lemon trees are very vigorous and thorny, with a tendency to produce rootstock suckers. Trees have some frost tolerance and are highly productive with uniform cropping. Rootstocks used in Spain (*Citrus macrophylla* and sour orange) are not suitable for Australian growing conditions.

Early results from trials at Renmark (SA) and Sunnyclyffs (Vic.) indicate that Fino lemon produces the largest trees on *Citrus volkameriana* and the smallest trees on *Poncirus trifoliata*. Some slight overgrowth of the bud union has been observed on Schaub Rough Lemon and the most suckers arose from trees on Benton citrange. Fino on Benton citrange out yielded all other rootstocks and also produced the largest fruit. Results from the trial site at Kulnura on the Central Coast of NSW indicate that Fino lemon produces largest trees on Benton citrange and the smallest trees on Fraser hybrid rootstock. Some overgrowth of the bud union has been observed on Benton citrange. The highest yields were achieved on Benton citrange (75kg/tree in the 4th year), followed by Cleopatra mandarin x trifoliata. The lowest yields are from trees grown on Fraser hybrid rootstock (35kg/tree in the 4th year). At the Central Coast trial site around 70% of the annual yield was produced in winter with the remaining 30% produced between spring and autumn.

Pest and disease

Pest and disease susceptibility appears to be similar to other lemon varieties grown under Australian conditions. Melanose has been observed in coastal plantings. Fino lemon is highly susceptible to mal secco disease when grown in Italy and other regions of the Mediterranean but this disease does not occur in Australia.

Extent of plantings

Minor commercial plantings in Australia. Fino lemon is currently under evaluation at three trial sites across Australia on a range of rootstocks. Trials were established at Renmark, South Australia (1994), Sunnyclyffs, Victoria (1997) and Kulnura, NSW (1997) as part of project CT97002 'Production of Quality Lemons' funded by Horticulture Australia Limited. The trials are due for completion in June 2003.

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State of knowledge

very
limited



very
high

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.

