

## mandarin variety fact sheet

# Hickson

### Origin

Roma, Queensland: believed to be a limb sport on an Ellendale tree on the property of Mr Hickson, propagated and promoted about 1941. Previously known also as 'Stemp'.

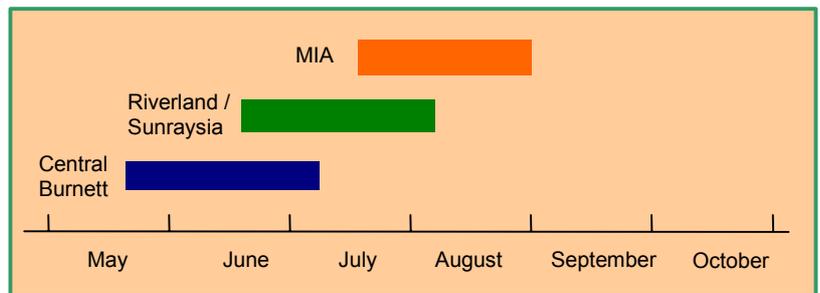
### Type

Mid season easy peel.

### Market

Fresh, export and domestic. The increased commercial importance of this old variety stems mainly from its ability to withstand the rigours of export.

### Marketing season (estimated)



### Internal quality

The fruit has good eating quality and high juice content. The flesh is orange/red with around 10-15 seeds per fruit. It is in many ways similar to Ellendale, but with earlier maturity and less problems with variability in acid content. Juice content remains high even in late harvested fruit.

### External quality

The medium/large-sized fruit is similar in appearance to Ellendale, with a flattened shape and a red external colour. There is a slight neck on most fruit. The skin is thin (2mm) and easily removed.

### Postharvest performance

The fruit stores well, making it suitable for both domestic and export markets.

### Field performance

Like Ellendale, the tree is prone to branch splitting and careful pruning, fruit thinning and branch support are required. It is a productive variety, setting large crops of good-sized fruit each year. Winter yellows is a significant problem with this variety, resulting in young trees often dropping most of their leaves during the autumn/winter.



## Hickson mandarin variety fact sheet

Fruit is susceptible to sunburn in areas where fruit maturity occurs during hot conditions. A range of rootstocks has been used successfully, but Rough Lemon should be avoided.

### **Pest and disease**

There is some evidence that the variety is particularly susceptible to mite damage. A fungal disease starting in the crotch of the tree has been reported. A disorder known as 'winter yellows' can affect trees particularly when young (see above).

### **Extent of plantings**

Commercial: Approx. 80,000 trees, with 60% non-bearing.

Research: Research agency arboreta. Old rootstock experiments now defunct. Used in breeding programs.

### **State of knowledge**

very  
limited

very  
high

This is currently one of the better varieties suitable for export prior to the Murcott season. It is grown predominantly in Queensland with little commercial interest from southern production areas.

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

**Last Revised:** September 2002

#### **Disclaimer:**

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

