

mandarin variety fact sheet

Imperial Mandarin



Origin

Australia: a chance hybrid selected around 1890 at Emu Plains, Sydney. Also known as Early Imperial.

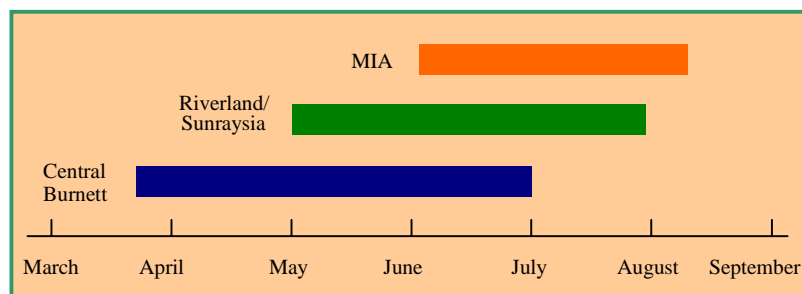
Type

Early season, seeded, easy peel

Market

Fresh, domestic. Not suitable for export because of short postharvest life.

Marketing season (estimated)



Brix:acid reaches 7:1 around mid March in the Central Burnett, early April in the Riverland, and early June in the MIA.

Internal quality

Good flavour with a pleasant balance of sugar and acid. Fruit has a soft thin skin and is easily peeled. Segments readily separate with low levels of rag. Juice level varies from 35% upwards and fruit are firm when peeled. The low juice content of this variety makes it susceptible to severe granulation problems (dry fruit) in some seasons. Good internal colour, with moderate levels of seed (generally <4/fruit) in both solid and most mixed plantings.

External quality

A medium to small oblate fruit, with distinctive shiny appearance. Fruit size and seed number may be reduced in large solid plantings. Peel oil has a strong pleasant aroma when fruit are handled. Fruit is slightly lumpy in appearance. External colour is yellow-orange.

Postharvest performance

Fruit must be clipped from the tree. The variety has a short postharvest life (2-4 weeks) depending on maturity at harvest. De-greening is necessary for early harvested fruit. The variety responds poorly to heat disinfestation treatments and is unable to withstand current cold disinfestation protocols. These problems make it unsuitable for export to most overseas markets. Packouts and fruit size can show large variation between seasons and orchards.

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Field performance

Performs adequately on a range of rootstocks. The variety must be well managed on Troyer and Carrizo rootstocks, particularly in early years as incompatibility often occurs where trees have suffered from poor weed control and/or inadequate irrigation and nutrition management. The expected commercial life of the variety on Troyer is around 12 to 15 years. Rootstock choice depends on soil conditions, and fruit yield/quality requirements. Cleopatra rootstock generally provides some of the best internal fruit quality and longest lived trees but fruit may be slightly smaller. Vigorous stocks such as Rough Lemon have been used on deep virgin soils but internal and external fruit quality tends to be very poor. Cleopatra and Troyer are the most commonly used rootstocks for this variety in Queensland, while Carrizo is popular in southern areas. The variety has a strong tendency to alternate bearing, which can be partly overcome with fruit thinning in heavy years. Commercial yields vary widely between orchards.

The tree is vigorous and has a distinctive upright growth habit.

The presence of other varieties for cross pollination may help with fruit-set, yield and fruit size.

Pest and disease

The variety is not particularly different from others in terms of pest and disease problems.

Extent of plantings

Commercial

Widely planted throughout existing mandarin growing regions. Bearing trees approximately 361,000, non-bearing trees around 26,000.

Research

Widely planted throughout growing regions.

State of knowledge

very
limited

very
high

Long-standing commercial variety, which has been extensively studied.

Growers should ensure that trees are propagated from Approved 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.



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