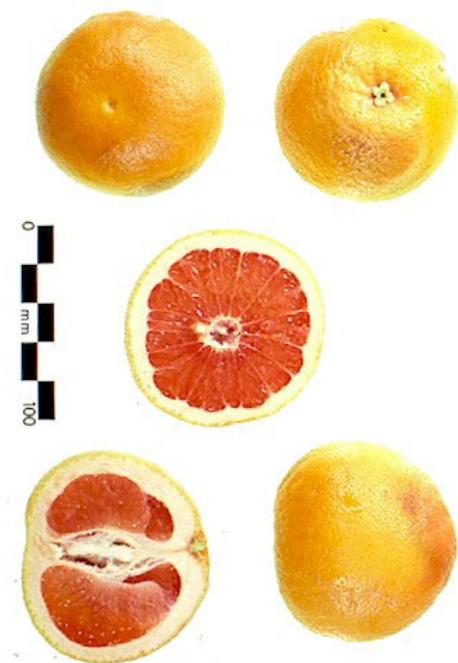


grapefruit variety fact sheet

Rio Red



Origin

Selected in 1976 from irradiated seedlings of Ruby Red grapefruit in Texas. Released in the United States in 1988. Rio Red grapefruit was imported into Australia from California and released from plant quarantine in 1992.

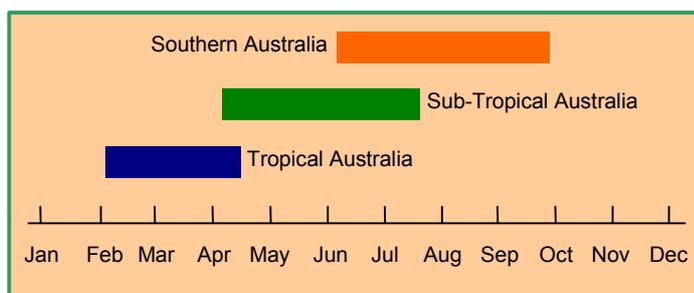
Type

Red fleshed grapefruit, low seed numbers

Market

Fresh fruit, domestic and export markets. Possible fresh juice and concentrate production.

Marketing season (estimated)



Internal quality

Rio Red grapefruit develops red internal fruit colour under southern Australia growing conditions. Colour intensity is usually similar to Star Ruby but may be slightly less intense in some seasons. Initial fruit quality assessment for red fleshed grapefruit in southern Australia indicate that achieving a Brix:acid ratio higher than 6:1 is extremely difficult.

External quality

Rio Red grapefruit develops attractive red and pink skin blush where fruit touch or where fruit are shaded inside the tree canopy. Rio Red fruit have a tendency to develop puffiness and elongated stem ends of fruit.

Postharvest performance

Postharvest performance of Rio Red grapefruit in Australia is unknown. Fruit grown in tropical and sub-tropical Australia require ethylene de-greening to improve external colouration (blush) of fruit.

Rio Red grapefruit variety fact sheet

Field performance

Rio Red grapefruit is highly productive in tropical, sub-tropical and temperate Australia. Rio Red grapefruit trees are more vigorous and easier to establish than Star Ruby, especially in replant sites. Long-term yield performance of Rio Red grapefruit under Australian growing conditions is unknown. Comparative trials in Queensland found that Rio Red was the best red-fleshed grapefruit for early season production, followed by Star Ruby later in the season.

Pest and disease

Highly susceptible to the Grapefruit Stem Pitting stain of tristeza. All propagation material supplied by Auscitrus is pre-immunised with a mild strain of tristeza as a protective measure against Grapefruit Stem Pitting. No other specific pest and disease problems have been noted to this point

Extent of plantings

Major plantings of Rio Red grapefruit have been established in northern Australia and smaller plantings have been established in southern Australia over the last five years. Rio Red has grown in popularity and recent demand for budwood from Auscitrus has been similar to demand for Star Ruby.

State of knowledge



Growers should ensure that trees are propagated from Premium budwood obtained from Auscitrus.

Last Revised: November 2002

Disclaimer:

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

