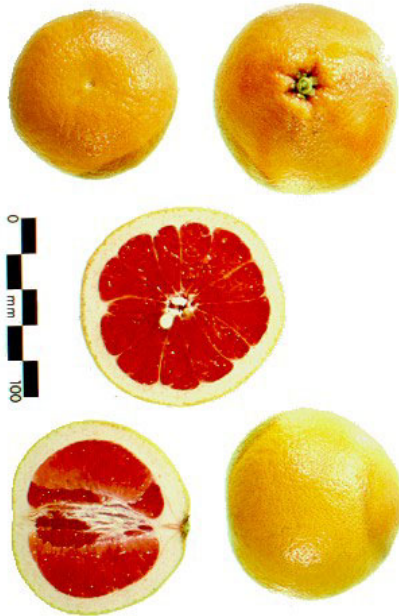


grapefruit variety fact sheet

Star Ruby



Origin

Produced in Texas in 1959 by irradiating seed of Hudson grapefruit. Released in the United States in 1970. Star Ruby grapefruit was imported into Australia from California and released from plant quarantine in 1992. Another selection known as the Cant selection of Star Ruby was introduced into Australia as seed by Rev Cant in 1984. Auscitrus distributes both selections to Australian citrus nurseries and growers.

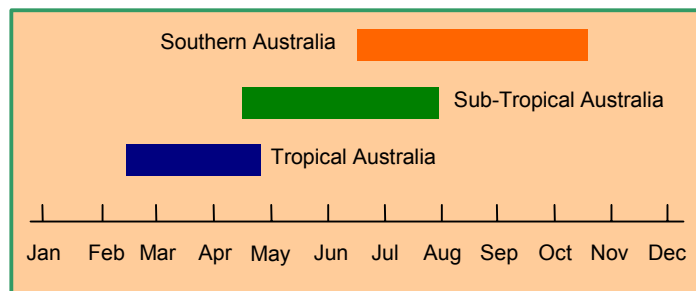
Type

Red fleshed grapefruit, low seed numbers

Market

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

Marketing season (estimated)



Internal quality

The internal flesh colour of Star Ruby fruit is deep red and is the most intense of all red grapefruit varieties. Red flesh colour is achieved in southern Australia but fruit quality data indicate that achieving a Brix:acid ratio higher than 6:1 is extremely difficult. Higher Brix:acid ratios have been achieved using sweet orange rootstock but this is not recommended for replant sites or poorly drained soils. Star Ruby has high early season acidity in tropical and sub-tropical conditions and therefore needs to be harvested later than other red grapefruit varieties.

External quality

Star Ruby develops attractive red and pink rind blush on fruit growing on the inside of the tree canopy and where fruit touch together. Fruit size of Star Ruby grapefruit from mature trees may be smaller than other red grapefruit varieties.

Star Ruby grapefruit variety fact sheet

Postharvest performance

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

Field performance

Long-term yield performance under Australian growing conditions is unknown, but preliminary observations indicate that Star Ruby may be less productive than other grapefruit varieties. Star Ruby grapefruit is the most difficult all red grapefruit varieties to establish, particularly in replant situations. Trees are sensitive to residual herbicides and extreme heat. Star Ruby is susceptible to *Phytophthora* root rot in replant situations. Star Ruby trees produce some leaves with characteristic white blotched areas on the upper surface which is often mistaken for heat or herbicide damage. Comparative trials in Queensland found that Star Ruby was the best red-fleshed grapefruit for later season production, following early season production of Rio Red.

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. Star Ruby grapefruit is susceptible to *Alternaria* brown spot under tropical growing conditions. Clusters of fruit inside the canopy provide an ideal environment for mealybug infestation and subsequent production of honeydew and sooty mould.

Extent of plantings

Large plantings of Star Ruby grapefruit have been established in northern Australia and smaller plantings have been established in southern Australia over the last five years. The most widely planted selection has been the California selection of Star Ruby, although some Cant selection has also been planted.

State of knowledge

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

very
limited

very
high

Disclaimer:

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

Last Revised: November 2002

