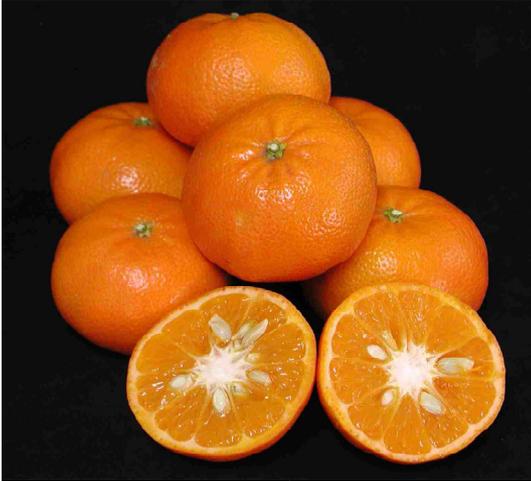


## mandarin variety fact sheet



# Afourer

### Origin

Morocco: a chance seedling of unknown origin. Imported (privately and publicly) into Australian quarantine in the 1990s and first released to selected nurserymen in 2000. It is also called W. Murcott in California and Nadorcott after Mr El Bachir Nadori, who discovered it in Morocco.

### Type

Easy peel, seeded, maturing mid season, but holding relatively late on the tree.

### Market

Fresh, domestic and export potential, but these need to be assessed under Australian growing conditions. In California the variety is being marketed as Delite.

### Marketing season (estimated)

Insufficient fruit yet produced in Australia, however in the San Joaquin Valley of California, a similar climatic zone to the Riverland of South Australia, fruit matured in early June (Australian equivalent time) and were harvested until September. Cool storage was used to further extend the marketing season.

### Internal quality

Reported to have very good flavour. Fruit in season has both high sugar and high acid content. Segments separate readily and fruit are moderately easy to peel. Fruit are juicy, but granulate very late in the season. Seed numbers per fruit in US commercial plantings vary from one to five and are higher (near 10) in the collection at Lindcove, where cross pollination would occur.

### External quality

Unless thinned, fruit are small to medium in size and flattened at the bottom. However they appear to respond well to thinning. Rind had an attractive colour and a medium texture which would have been influenced by the nutrition program and the vigour of the trees. External colour is red orange and very attractive. The fruit has a characteristic slight asymmetric appearance.

### Postharvest performance

Fruit should be clipped from the tree. In California fruit has been stored successfully at 4 to 5° for eight weeks.

### Field performance

Trees are vigorous and have a relatively upright growth habit. Trees tend to overcrop and need to be thinned to

## Afourer mandarin variety fact sheet

produce optimum fruit sizes and to avoid severe alternate bearing. Near 100 hectares have been planted in California and 1,000 hectares in Morocco. Rootstock choice depends on soil conditions, and fruit yield/quality requirements. However, surprisingly in Corsica it was found to be incompatible with *P. trifoliata*. In California *P. trifoliata* is the preferred rootstock to enhance lateness. Fruit is susceptible to sunburn damage.

### **Pest and disease**

No specific pest and disease problems have been noted to this point (January 2002).

### **Extent of plantings**

Commercial: Perhaps 1000 or so bearing trees with an additional 17,000 buds supplied to citrus nurserymen.

Research: Young trees in research agency trials and arboreta.

### **State of knowledge**



New variety to Australia, with commercial potential still to be determined. Some initial commercial plantings have been removed, and nursery orders cancelled because of the overlap of the assumed harvest season with existing varieties.

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.

