

mandarin variety fact sheet

Amigo



Origin

Merbein, Victoria. A selection out of 3 seedlings which grew beneath an Ellendale tangor tree on the property of Mr. Bill Foreman. Possibly a natural hybrid between Imperial mandarin and Ellendale tangor.

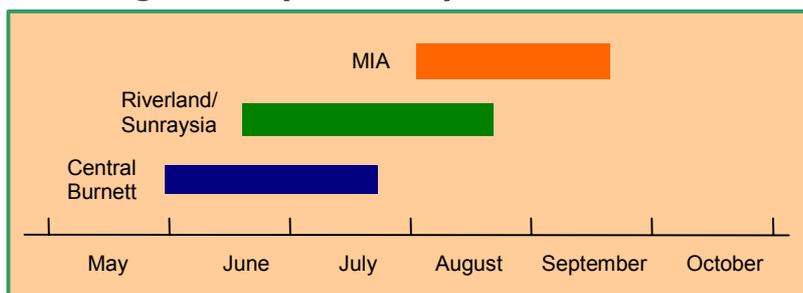
Type

Early-mid season maturity, easy peel, seeded.

Market

Fresh, domestic and export. Overlaps the Imperial mandarin season in southern Australia. Matures 1 to 2 weeks later than Imperial, extending through to late August in Sunraysia/Riverland. Trial shipments have been sent to the USA market.

Marketing season (estimated)



Internal quality

Flesh is soft and juicy with low to moderate rag. Segments separate easily. A juice content of 40-45% is typical at the beginning of the marketing season. Flavour is sweet with seed number varying from 0 to greater than 10 per fruit, with most fruit tending towards low seed number.

External quality

Bright orange skin colour distinguishes this variety from Imperial mandarin. The skin is easy to remove and does not have unpleasant aromas, which can occur with some Ellendale hybrids. It has large, more uniform fruit size than Imperial. Some trees can develop an alternate bearing pattern with fruit shape being variable in 'off' and 'on' years. 'Off' season fruit has a tendency to have a raised stem end (neck).

Postharvest performance

Fruit displays good shelf life. Trial shipments to the USA market arrived in good condition.

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Field performance

Trees have an upright growth habit similar to Imperial mandarin. Shoots become pendulous as trees mature and produce fruit. Fruit does not tend to granulate, but rather becomes puffy with off-flavours when over maturity is reached (September in Sunraysia region).

Thorns are common on young trees and vigorous growth, but the canopy of mature trees is mostly without thorns.

An overgrowth of the bud union can develop on *P. trifoliata* rootstock and its hybrids. A sweet orange interstock is recommended.

Fruit can be carefully 'snap' harvested, but clipping is preferred. Application of GA at 75% colour reduces the skin colour intensity and gives the fruit a more 'Imperial mandarin like' colour.

Pest and disease

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

Extent of plantings

Commercial: Approx 500 bearing trees and 2,500 non-bearing (most of these under 3 years of age).

Research: Research agency arboreta and trees planted for budwood supply.

State of knowledge



There has been some wholesale agent resistance to Amigo, because of its 'clash' with Imperial mandarins on the domestic market. However sales of Amigo increase when Imperial mandarins are in short supply.

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.

