

Early Sicily (C1867) mandarin

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Figure 1. An Early Sicily (C1867) mandarin tree.

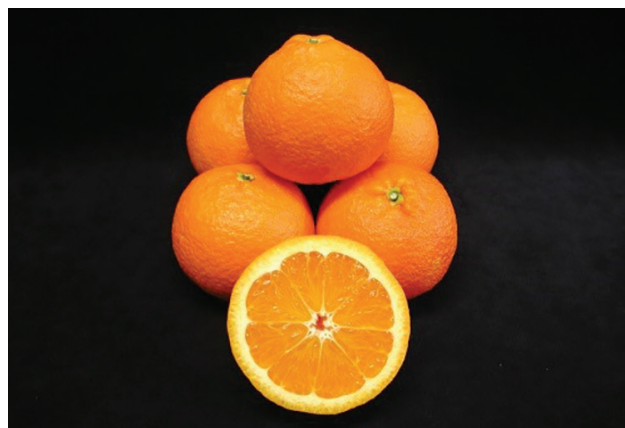


Figure 2. Early Sicily (C1867) mandarins.

Estimated maturity period

Region	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Riverina												
Sunraysia												

Origin

Early Sicily was bred in Italy and is a hybrid of Oroval clementine x tetraploid Tarocco orange. It has Plant Breeder's Rights (PBR) protection and is managed in Australia by the Australian Nurserymen's Fruit Improvement Company (ANFIC).

Fruit quality

Table 1. Early Sicily fruit quality* characteristics.

Skin	Easy peel, orange, slightly pebbled.
Average rind thickness (mm)	4.4
Internal quality	Highly palatable. Sweet, juicy. Blood orange taste characteristics increase with cool storage.
Average number of seeds	<1
Juice per cent (%)	52
°Brix	11.2
Acid per cent (%)	0.8
Brix:acid ratio	14.1
Average fruit weight (g)	214
Average fruit diameter (mm)	77

*Juice quality levels considered adequate for harvest and developed by sequential analysis of fruit from top-worked evaluation trees.

Comments

- Early Sicily had good crop production in 2009 on 4-year-old trees top-worked to Valencia orange with a trifoliata rootstock (average per tree = 46 kg).
- Juvenile trees are thorny.
- Internal anthocyanin pigment began to develop after three weeks of cool storage at 5 °C.
- Fruit are round and some have a slight 'neck'.

Table 2. Average yield per tree* on nursery propagated field trees (Sunraysia).

Rootstock	Average yield per tree (kg)		
	2010	2011	2012
C35 Citrange	5	6	25
Citrange	22	26	59
Cleopatra	–	30	53
Swingle	2	22	17
Trifoliata	11	29	43
Volkameriana	20	38	83

C1867 has been the most consistent of the Tarocco orange x clementine hybrids. Fruit developed internal anthocyanin pigment with cool storage in 2009 and 2010. Fruit that was cool stored in 2011 failed to develop the intensity of internal colour compared to the previous two seasons. The lack of sufficient 'field chill' was probably the reason that colour development did not progress under cool storage conditions.

C1867 shows a degree of 'shelf life' after removal from cool storage of up to two weeks at ambient air temperature. The variable yield pattern is a concern with C1867 and all the Tarocco orange hybrids. C1867 has been the best performing of the four hybrids under evaluation. There was no leaf drop at the Sunraysia evaluation site receiving a high nutrition program.

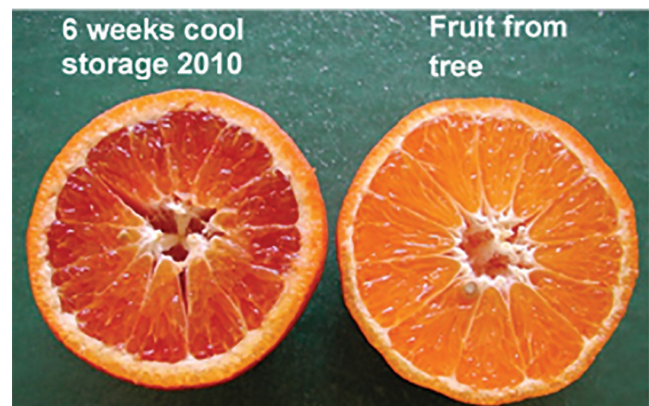


Figure 3. The internal colour of an Early Sicily mandarin after cool storage compared with one from the tree.

Table 3. Average yield per tree* on trees top-worked to Valencia orange (Sunraysia).

Rootstock	Average yield per tree (kg)			
	2010	2011	2012	2013
Citrange	<6	37	51	42
Cleopatra	<6	25	30	19
Trifoliata	14	99	28	55

*Average yield per tree results are from a small number of evaluation trees and should only be used as a general indication of the variety's potential yield.

Early Sicily (C1867) mandarin is the best performing of the Clementine x Tarocco orange hybrids in southern Australia evaluation trials.

Acknowledgements

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The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (December 2019) and was generated from field and nursery trees at Dareton Primary Industry Institute, Sunraysia, NSW, unless otherwise stated. Where quantitative data are presented (e.g. % Juice or rind thickness) they are based on measured properties. Where qualitative data are presented (e.g. thorniness or tendency to split), they are based on observations or brief notes recorded in the field.

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