

# Earlygold orange

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Dave Monks and Graeme Sanderson, Research Horticulturists, Dareton



Figure 1. An Earlygold orange tree.



Figure 2. Earlygold oranges.

## Estimated maturity period

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

## Origin

Earlygold oranges originate from Florida, USA and were introduced to Australia by the Australian Nurseryman's Fruit Improvement Company (ANFIC).

## Fruit quality

Table 1. Earlygold orange fruit quality\* characteristics.

Skin	Orange colour, slightly pebbled. Fruit colour develops early. Fruit shape is round to slightly flat.
Average rind thickness (mm)	5.1
Internal quality	Brix/acid ratio of 12:1 reached in late May and maintained through June during the first cropping season. Juice content was high and remained constant during the maturity period.
Average number of seeds	5
Juice per cent (%)	48
°Brix	12.6
Acid per cent (%)	1.1
Brix:acid ratio	11.5
Average fruit weight (g)	192
Average fruit diameter (mm)	74

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

## Comments

- Earlygold is a processing orange that produced a high-quality juice at the initial assessment in 2010.
- Juice colour is dark orange. When blended with Bintangcheng orange a high quality, early fresh juice product was created.
- Earlygold is losing popularity in Florida due to its susceptibility to citrus canker, which is similar to Hamlin orange (pers. comm., W. Castle).
- Earlygold produced good yields from 3-year-old top-worked trees in 2010 with an average yield of 30 kg per tree (average of 12 evaluation trees).

Table 2. Fruit quality summary of Earlygold 2010-12 over a 5 weeks maturity period, Sunraysia site.

Fruit quality	2010	2011	2012
Juice content (%)	42 – 51	47 – 50	45 – 49
Brix:acid ratio	12.1 (late May)	11.4 (early June)	11.9 (late June)
Acid percent (%)	0.91 – 0.87	1.14 – 0.90	1.22 – 0.83
°Brix	10.3 – 10.7	10.2 – 10.8	13.2 – 13.8

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

Rootstock	Average yield per tree (kg)	
	2011	2012
Citrangle	71	56
Cleopatra	74	52
Trifoliata	88	16

\*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.

**A juice company needs to generate interest in this variety to stimulate plantings in Australia.**

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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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