

# Palmer navel orange

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Figure 1. A Palmer navel orange tree.



Figure 2. Palmer navel oranges.

## Estimated maturity period

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

## Origin

The Palmer navel orange is a mid-season Washington navel selection from South Africa introduced to Australia by Auscitrus as a public variety.

## Fruit quality

Table 1. Palmer navel orange fruit quality\* characteristics.

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Skin                        | Deep orange colour at maturity. Peeling characteristics similar to other Washington navel types. |
| Average rind thickness (mm) | 7.0  |
| Internal quality            | Typical navel orange soft flesh texture. Good eating quality.                                    |
| Average number of seeds     | 0  |
| Juice per cent (%)          | 51   |
| °Brix                       | 12.5   |
| Acid per cent (%)           | 0.78   |
| Brix:acid ratio             | 16.0   |
| Average fruit weight (g)    | 256  |
| Average fruit diameter (mm) | 83   |

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

## Comments

- Limited numbers of fruit were produced in 2013 with more extensive testing beginning in 2014.
- Palmer is the standard mid-season Washington navel selection in South Africa. It is reported to produce regular crops of 50–60 tonnes/ha of fruit in mature orchards.
- There has been a recent trend in Australia towards the establishment of mandarin types at the expense of navel oranges. Australia has several high health status navel orange selections, which are available to the local industry via AusCitrus.

**It may be difficult for the Palmer navel to become a significant commercial variety in Australia but some nursery propagation began in 2017.**

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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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