

Flying Dragon

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NSW DPI Citrus Team



Advantages

- ✓ dwarf trees
- ✓ good eating quality
- ✓ *Phytophthora* tolerant

Disadvantages

- ✗ low early yields
- ✗ low production/ha
- ✗ smaller fruit size

Origin

An ancient ornamental form of *Poncirus trifoliata* from Japan. Introduced to the USA in 1915 and later to Australia.

Tolerance to environmental and soil conditions

Assumed to display similar good tolerance to citrus tristeza virus and *Phytophthora* as conventional *P. trifoliata* selections. Likely to be intolerant of saline conditions or soils that are highly acid or alkaline. It can withstand cold and wet conditions. It is well suited to permanent cultivation in pots.

Field performance

Only used commercially in situations where a high degree of vigour reduction is required, such as very high-density planting. Yields per hectare are generally low on account of the small tree size, though this can be overcome to some extent with closer spacing. The stock is best suited to home garden situations where a smaller tree with high fruit quality and good on-tree storage is desired.

Nursery performance

Can be slow to grow in the nursery and the bent stem and recurved spines make budding difficult.

Fruit quality

High internal fruit quality, though fruit size can be reduced.

Scion compatibility

Severe 'benching' at the bud union can develop at an early age though it is not always associated with tree decline. Good compatibility has been reported with oranges and grapefruit but performance of mandarins and lemons is less assured (it is likely to be incompatible with Eureka lemon).

Extent of plantings

No significant commercial plantings. Used as an ornamental pot-plant, and for producing dwarfed trees for the home garden market.

Overseas experience

Has been heavily evaluated and promoted for high density plantings but commercial uptake of this technology has not occurred. This may reflect problems with low early yields and limited production on a per hectare basis.

Reference number: PUB22/177.

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