

African Sunset mandarin

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Figure 1. An African Sunset mandarin tree.



Figure 2. African Sunset mandarins.

Estimated maturity period

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

Origin

African Sunset mandarin was developed in South Africa and is a hybrid of Ellendale and Robin mandarins. It has Plant Breeder's Rights (PBR) protection and is managed in Australia by Variety Access.

Fruit quality

Table 1. African Sunset mandarin fruit quality* characteristics.

Skin	Easy to peel, attractive orange-red colour, pebbled to coarse rind.
Average rind thickness (mm)	3.4
Internal quality	Dark orange flesh, rich flavour, slightly 'chewy'.
Average number of seeds	0.1
Juice per cent (%)	50
°Brix	11.0
Acid per cent (%)	0.86
Brix:acid ratio	12.8
Average fruit weight (g)	203
Average fruit diameter (mm)	81

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

Comments

- Large fruit size and intense orange-red skin.
- Crop load needs to be managed to retain sufficient fruit on the tree to reduce granulation problems with larger fruit.
- Fruit tends to split at the basal end as some fruit have a 'navel' where rind cracking can develop.
- Trees are thornless, which aids harvesting practices.
- Considered to be alternate bearing.

Table 2. Fruit quality of African Sunset top-worked to Valencia orange on Carrizo citrange rootstock, Dareton Primary Industries Institute, NSW 2015 and 2016. See 'Estimated maturity period' to interpret this data.

Date	% Juice	°Brix	% Acid	Brix:acid ratio	BrimA
29.5.2015	52	10.6	0.98	10.8	110
11.6.2015	55	10.9	0.96	11.4	116
22.6.2015	50	10.8	0.84	12.9	123
6.7.2015	51	10.8	0.79	13.6	126
17.7.2015	49	11.6	0.83	13.9	136
29.7.2015	51	11.6	0.81	14.3	138
10.8.2015	47	12.1	0.71	17.0	153
20.8.2015	47	11.8	0.67	17.7	151
27.5.2016	48	10.9	0.94	11.6	118
7.6.2016	49	10.4	0.88	11.8	113
21.6.2016	41	9.9	0.81	12.2	110
4.7.2016	44	10.8	0.76	14.3	128
18.7.2016	41	10.4	0.73	14.3	123
29.7.2016	40	10.2	0.65	15.8	126
11.8.2016	35	10.5	0.75	14.0	124
Mandarin minimum standard	35	–	–	–	110

African Sunset is considered to be alternate bearing. The first fruit was produced in southern Australia during 2015.

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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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