



NEWS

CITROGOLD NEWSLETTER

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CitroGold's positive development

CitroGold has experienced a very positive development process over the past twelve months as the implementation of strategic plans from 2005 have started to bear dividends. The company has made significant progress in the diversification of our portfolio, implementation of new systems and the improvement of service delivery to our valued customers.

CitroGold's association with the Biogold International Group has created a platform for the acceleration of the company development and its ability to secure new Intellectual Property within the horticultural sector on a worldwide basis.

This year, the company will continue to grow and the appointment of a number of new Product Division managers in sub-tropicals, exotics and ornamentals portfolios will add to our service delivery within these sectors. The acquisition of regional management rights to a range of new exciting exotics, ornamentals, citrus, sub-tropicals and industrial plants will further entrench the status of the company as one of the leading horticultural management companies in South Africa.

We thank you for your support and partnership in production of new IP and look forward to the application of new opportunities in the future.

Bruce Cook, Executive Director

News in Brief

CitroGold is pleased to announce two new additions to its staff contingent:

Marlene Steenkamp has been appointed the head of Financial Services and Dr. Viresh Ramburan will be taking on the role of Ornamental Specialist.

The first export table grapes have been successfully harvested in Ethiopia. This was made possible thanks to the technical expertise of CitroGold panellist, Emil van Wyk, who assisted local producers with their plantations.



CitroGold has introduced the early ripening Navel M7 to South Africa. Ten early navel orange specialists and technical advisers will travel to Australia in April to view new plantings of the M7.

A Sonet Field Day was held this past month at the Addo Research Station, in cooperation with the

Agricultural Research Council, to introduce growers to the new early-ripening mandarin.

Nelmac D macadamia nut plantings have recently been extended to Mozambique. The first plantings have been made in the Northern



CitroGold adds dragon fruit to product range

CitroGold are pleased to announce the most recent welcome addition to their product range; the pitaya- also known as dragon fruit.

Dragon fruit generally appears as tennis ball-sized fruit with a red or yellow, scaly outer skin. The dragon fruit flesh can be white, red, or magenta and is embedded with thousands of miniscule lipid-rich black seeds. Native to Mexico and Central and South America, the epiphytic *Hylocereus* cacti are also cultivated in Southeast Asian countries.

Dragon fruit, or pitaya, are one of the most widely distributed members of the cactus family, and are now found on six continents. This vine-like cactus plant produces a beautiful, fragrant flower that only blooms several times a year, and only at night. Because of this night-time blooming, pollination is by nocturnal creatures such as moths and fruit bats, rather than by bees. The dragon fruit sets on the cactus-like trees up to 50 days after flowering and can sometimes have five to six cycles of harvests per year. The nutritional benefits of the fruit are vast and varied. Dragon fruit helps lower blood glucose levels in type 2 diabetes. Dragon fruit is also rich in Vitamin C (a 100g portion of the fruit contains up to 25mg of ascorbic acid) which gives the immune system a massive boost.

Dragon fruit is a good source of dietary fibre and contains approximately one gram of fibre per 100g of fruit. The fruit is rich in quantities of phytoalbumin antioxidants which help prevent the formation of cancer-causing free radicals. Dragon fruit also contains many nutrients and minerals, most notably phosphorous and calcium. The seeds are rich in polyunsaturated fatty acids and very little unhealthy, saturated fat. In addition, the fruit increases excretion of heavy metal toxins and lowers cholesterol and blood pressure considerably.

When eaten regularly, it is credited with alleviating chronic respiratory tract ailments.

The taste of the fruit is thought to be similar to that of a pear, or a fig. It has a mild, gentle, creamy and non-offensive taste. The texture of the fruit can be compared to a kiwi fruit.

provinces and will complement the existing cashew nut plantings.



The dragon fruit or pitaya is an amazing fruit in terms of taste and nutritional value, and should be a welcome addition to any diet as part of a healthy, balanced lifestyle.

Dragon fruit can be ordered directly from Citrogold. For more information, please email admin@citrogold.co.za

ClemenGold reaches 1 million Milestone

Citrogold reached a milestone this past season by achieving sales of over one million cartons of Nardorcott- marketed under ClemenGold®- a Citrogold trademark.

In last year's late-harvest mandarin season (June to September) 1.3 million cartons of mostly ClemenGold® mandarins were exported internationally. The United Kingdom far superseded other global markets in terms of the quantities of cartons imported, with a staggering 55% of the total volume being shifted to the UK.



Europe was the next largest importer, with Canada following close behind. Due to the USA being subject to stricter cold sterilisation protocols each year, entering the market is growing increasingly difficult and volumes diverted by the USA customs were fortunately able to be absorbed by the Canadian market. Locally, over 800 tonnes of ClemenGold® were supplied to Woolworths.

Citrogold gains commercialisation rights for Angel Red™



Citrogold has acquired the rights to commercialise the Smith pomegranate, or Angel Red™- an early-ripening, soft-seeded, deep red fruit from California. Citrogold has attained worldwide commercialisation rights (with the exception of the United States), and is currently in the process of registering the variety.

The Smith pomegranate is one of the world's earliest ripening varieties, has a higher acid content than many other pomegranates when ripe (averaging at about 18.5%) and a distinctive and very attractive deep red colour. What makes it even more distinctive is that its endocarp dissolves into a soft membrane, instead of remaining hard, as is common in most pomegranates. It also has extremely soft seeds and high juice content, as well as being heavy bearing. It is able to withstand very cold temperatures.

The Smith pomegranate is the discovery of Greg Smith, a third generation farmer and university graduate in Agribusiness currently farming 400 acres of citrus, olives and pomegranates in Visalia, California. Smith started testing the variety in the year 2000 and discovered that the Smith pomegranate ripens up to four weeks earlier than California's leading commercial variety, the Wonderful. It is also bigger, has a darker tone and more of a "sweet-tart" flavour than other early maturing varieties.

DNA fingerprinting on five of the most popular varieties of pomegranates grown in California have recently revealed that the Smith variety is not related to any of the other varieties. "It stands distinctly alone with its markers," Smith states proudly, "The Smith's uniqueness will give it an edge when have to monitoring its legal propagation."

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