Citrogold organiseer ‘n Mandarin Pro-
dusent toer na Israel. Die toer sal op die
produkiespraktieke van die Or en Mor
Mandaryne in Israel fokus.  Produsente
sal boorde, kwekerye en pakhuise be-
søek oor ‘n tydperk van 4 dae.  Die toer
sal vergesel word deur ‘n Citrogold Toer
Leier.  Die groep sal beperk word tot 10
persone.

Die toer sal plaas neem van 10 - 14 Febru-
arie 2013.  Produsente wat belangstel
kan Peter Turner kontakte by (021) 882
8277 of pturner@citrogold.co.za

Citrogold is coordinating a Mandarin
Growers tour to Israel.  The tour will
focus on the management of the Or and
Mor mandarins in Israel.  Growers will
be able to visit orchards, nurseries and
packing operations over a 4 day tour to
Israel accompanied by a Citrogold Tour
leader.  The group will be limited to 10
persons.

The tour would take place from
the 10 – 14th of February 2013.  Interested
growers to contact Peter Turner at (021)
882 8277 or pturner@citrogold.co.za.
The Carninka Ultra Late Navel Field Day

The Carninka Ultra Late Navel was picked in the last week of September. A very successful field day was held in Patensie in the Eastern Cape just prior to the harvest.

The 3 year old trial orchard produced a crop of 12.7 tons of fruit per hectare with a 49% Grade 1 pack-out percentage. Danie Rautenbach was very pleased with the size caliper breakdown which peaked on count 48 and 56's.

The trial block showed no sign of alternate bearing following a good crop last year of 9 tonnes per hectare (2 year old trees) despite the late hanging of the variety well into the flowering period.

The variety has seen a lot of interest with a core group of Patensie growers placing the first orders for trees.

For a more detailed report of the field day and harvest records please send your request to: pturner@citrogold.co.za.

Dr Barry Manicom retired from the ARC-ITSC in September 2012 after 36 years of service to the industry.

Dr Manicom's lifelong dedication to Plant Pathology commenced with his first studies at Pietermaritzburg University, where he returned some years later to complete a MSc. on Xanthomonas mangiferaeindicae, the causal organism of mango black spot disease. His PhD was on the molecular identification of Fusarium species as completed at Pretoria University in cooperation with Prof. Bar-Joseph from Israel and Prof. Kotze (PU).

Dr Manicom was instrumental in shifting the focus of the Plant Pathology department at the ITSC to molecular identification methods for citrus viruses and viroids. Pathogens which were previously difficult to detect visually on indicators can now be relatively easily identified. This has been somewhat of a mixed blessing as although citrus going to the industry has never been cleaner, some cultivars carry pathogens which previously slipped through the net and recalls have caused major problems.

Dr Manicom contributed to several chapters in four textbooks, to all the ITSC handbooks related to plant pathology, some 20 plus scientific publications, 30 odd semi-scientific, several international collaborations or consultancies. Most recently has written a manual which covers the processes and technical procedures for all aspects of the CIP with pictures, brief descriptions and links to more information on all the citrus graft transmissible pathogens.

Dr Manicom's retirement has already resulted in the reduction of his golf handicap by three shots and he is confidently aiming for single figures. We thank him for his contribution to the industry and wish him well in his retirement.
Citrogold has continued its long term storage trials for the second year in a row. This ongoing trial will be repeated over the next few years.

Citrogold conducts storage trials to determine the optimum storage requirements on all new varieties. The application of cold sterilization trials, in order to confirm to growers how the varieties stand up to tough storage regimes that South African fruit need to endure, are also implemented. Citrogold has partnered with the University of Stellenbosch and the PPECB to conduct these trials.

The Nadorcott, Mor, Or, Valley Gold and African Sunset varieties have been tested to date. The 2012 trials have yielded some interesting results that will enable citrus growers to considerably increase the marketing window for these mandarins.

The formation of a Professional Taste Panel; at the Postharvest Technology Research Unit, has been an exciting spin-off for the South African Citrus industry. The taste panel, which consists of a wide range of local and foreign demographics, affords the industry to test the response of new markets to new citrus products.

Click on the picture below to visit our website for more information on the mentioned varieties.

**Long-term Mandarin Storage Trials**

**The Or 4 Mandarin** has achieved some of the highest consistent returns out of any commercial mandarins under production in South Africa. The market in Europe recognises the Or 4 mandarin as a superior tasting mandarin which earns a premium price.

South African citrus growers are starting to vote with their feet with an increasing degree of interest in new plantings of the variety. The Or 4 has been under production in South Africa for approximately 10 years. The current production base consists of ±160 planted hectares.

A number of plantings are in progress in the country and over the next two years the hectares will more than double. European based marketers who have recently purchased farming enterprises in the Western Cape, are committing to large scale top working and plantings as they have confidence in the marketing future for the variety, while some existing producers are also increasing their plantings of the variety.

**NOVA ARC**

**The NOVA ARC** is a variety that offers growers the opportunity to avoid the complexities of cross pollination as the variety has low pollen viability.

The Nova ARC is a good option where growers are concerned with the dangers of cross pollination in the presence of varieties such as clementines and other hybrid mandarins. The variety is very precocious and bears good early crops.

The ARC and Citrogold temporarily suspended budwood releases of the variety following reports of gumming and die-back of trees. It now appears as if these symptoms are the cause of copper shortages similar to the “Midknight die-back”. An investigation into the cause is on-going.

The variety is copper hungry and is prone to exhibiting acute copper shortage symptoms if preventative copper sprays are not provided. Currently the following maintenance copper sprays are recommended to curb tree decline and gumming of 150g of Copper Oxy Chloride per 100 litres of water. If die-back symptoms occur the following application I recommended: Benomil (25-50g/100l water) and Strobilurin e.g. Cabrio (10ml/100l water).
Pollination Survey

Citrogold has been busy with a country wide pollination survey. Citrogold maintains a number of trial sites throughout the country in order to evaluate new varieties. These trial blocks enable the monitoring of similar varieties in multiple climatic zones.

The survey aims to provide growers with a comprehensive pollination table which will provide information on the timing of flowering, potential cross pollination overlaps, correct timing of selections for choice as buffer varieties etc. The survey is in its third year and has produced some surprising results. A pollination table will be provided to Growers in the near future.

The M7 was discovered by Mr Greg Chislett in 2004 as a branch mutation in a Navelina orchard on his citrus farm near Kenley in the State of Victoria, Australia. The M7 has since been tested and evaluated at a number of sites in Australia and South Africa, and many of the numerous visitors to these test blocks have touted it as the best early ripening Navel in the world. At the launch, Greg addressed a group of interested farmers from the area.

The main features of the M7 – in comparison to Navelina (Clone 7.5), are described as follows:

• The fruit shape is round
• Develops external rind colour 2-3 weeks earlier
• Matures internally 2-3 weeks earlier
• Develops high brix values – up to 13°
• Has an extended harvesting period of 2 to 3 months
• Strong and firm rind with little to no albedo breakdown noted
• A medium to small external navel and small internal navel
• Precocious bearer with good yields and fruit size

A tour to Australia for new M7 growers is planned for in March/April 2013. Interested growers to contact Peter Turner at (021) 882 8277 or pturner@citrogold.co.za.

Greg Chislett, the owner of the early ripening M7 Navel orange, travelled from Australia to Schoeman Agribusiness Farms, near Marble Hall to witness the first commercial planting of M7 in South Africa.

Over the next three years approximately 150 ha’s of the variety will be planted on Schoeman Agribusiness farms, making them the largest single grower of the variety in South Africa. All the trees (approximately 125 000) will be supplied by Du Roi nursery.

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