News in Brief

Carninka Navel Orchard Visits

South Africa’s latest ripening navel reaches maturity in late August and can be picked well into September. Fruit from 6 year old trees at Danie Rautenbach’s farm in Patensie, will be harvested next week (week 37).

Glen Ora Comeback

The Glen Ora Late Ripening Navel confirms its true pedigree as an excellent late navel

The Glen Ora Late Navel is a late maturing navel which ripens after Witkrans navel. The fruit has a relatively small navel end, is round and large. The variety is also characterised by excellent flavour and good eating qualities. The variety is different from the summer navels from Australia in that it has higher acid levels which means that growers have excellent ratios late in the season for safe export to discerning markets.

The Glen Ora has come under some criticism over the past few years for being a shy bearer and in some cases growers have even removed trees or cancelled orders. Recent evidence of high yields, good fruit size and excellent internal quality from a number of commercial orchards across the country, are reversing this notion. In trial plantings at Dunbrody Estate over a nine year period it has shown to have the highest cumulative yield and the best fruit size. Similar results have been noted in a number of plantings in different parts of the country.

Growers who have planted the Glen Ora late navel are discovering that once the variety has passed through the juvenile phase it starts to produce exceptional crops with good fruit size. Through good horticultural practices we are confident that fruit set can be improved in the early years. This would include girdling and the use of Giberrelic Acid sprays during and after flowering. In addition to normally used rootstocks such as Rough Lemon, Carrizo and Swingle, excellent yields have been reported on Minneola x Trifoliate and Koethien Citrange rootstocks.

Citrogold recommends that growers should definitely consider this variety as an excellent partner to the Witkrans and Carninka navels when considering plantings of late maturing navels. For more information on the Glen Ora Navel please click here.

ARO Pomegranates

Citrogold will represent the Israeli-bred Emek, Shani and Karmel pomegranate range in Southern Africa. This exciting range of full red pomegranates will offer growers a wider range of top quality varieties over the full length of the South African season.

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Growers have shown a strong interest in this variety. Budwood has been released to nurseries and the first plantings of the new budwood source have already taken place. Existing evaluation blocks continue to perform with consistent tonnages and excellent pack outs. The fruit has been well received in the market. Limited hectarage is still available in phase 1 of plantings - orders should be placed soon. Click here for order forms.

Citrogold Range to the ZA Grower

Citrogold currently offers 25 top quality varieties to the South African citrus growers. The varieties are sourced from many countries including South Africa, Morocco, Spain, Israel, USA and Argentina.

Citrogold is the most experienced independent variety management and plant improvement company in South Africa. The company bases its introduction of new varieties on years of technical evaluation in multiple citrus climatic zones around the country. Only a handful of these varieties have limited hectarage models.

There are a number of new experimental varieties in the pipeline which will maintain the competitiveness of the South African Citrus producer. Detailed technical information on each variety including order forms are available on the Citrogold website (www.citrogold.co.za) on each variety. Further technical information is available via Freek Veldman, Chris Alexander, Bryan Offer and our nursery partners.

Mandarin News

Citrogold is currently evaluating over 70 new mandarin selections ranging in ripening time from March until October.

This season’s evaluations have provided interesting insights into some strong potential candidates for the future. Of particular interest has been the ultra late maturing (August to September) mandarins with some new releases to be available to the South African growers shortly.

Gloodye Navel

Patensie has produced another exceptional navel. Country wide evaluation of this new experimental late maturing navel has excited many local growers and international visitors alike. The navel has a very smooth rind, is a firm fruit with good internal qualities. This navel will be an excellent partner to the Witkraans, Glenora and Carrinka navel and will compliment a trio of excellent selections which will strenghten the South African late navel offering.
A number of trial sites produced pleasing results for the M7 navel this season. Fruit was evaluated in the field in Citrusdal, Sunday’s River Valley, Malelane, Letsitele and Groblersdal.

The trials produced some interesting results with confirmation that the variety is not only the earliest maturing navel in South Africa but also has the ability to hang on the tree for an extended period after the initial picking maturity in April/May without dropping fruit whilst maintaining excellent internal fruit quality. Fruit picked in early July in Citrusdal measured 16° brix and 1.02 acids.

The M7 will clearly have an important role to play in transcending the early to midseason navel category. Click here for more info.

Girdling Tools
Citrogold has a supply of medium and large girdling tools available for growers. The girdling tools are the best design format that we have been able to find globally. Girdling for improved fruit set is normally done during the flowering season so it is a good time to acquire the tools.

Order forms are available from Bronwyn Wakefield at bwakefield@citrogold.co.za.

CIRCA 1964 prior to the advent of shoot tip grafting, seeds of Murcott tangor were planted at INRA experimental station in Afourer (a village near Beni Mellal, Morocco, at the foothills of the Atlas mountains) to produce virus-free propagation material of Murcott. There was variation in the seedling population, among which INRA-W21 (row W, tree 21) was selected due to its ease of peeling and reddish rind colour when compared with Murcott. Daughter trees were planted in Rabat. INRA-W21 was named Afourer by Domaines Agricoles, and is now used as their tradename. INRA-W21 was sent to California’s Citrus Clone Protection Program by Dr El Bachir Nadori where it was designated W Murcott. Subsequently, INRA-W21 has been named Nadorcott after the discoverer Dr El Bachir Nadori.

From 1986 to 1988, cross-pollination studies were conducted to determine which pollen sources did not cause fertilisation and seed development. Circa 1987 it was discovered that seedless fruit were produced when no pollination occurred. At that stage it was discovered that only pollen sterile cultivars, e.g. Navel oranges, are safe to plant alongside Afourer. Subsequently, it was discovered that Afourer is particularly sensitive to cross-pollination and that great care must be taken regarding orchard layout to avoid cross-pollination.

The variety has a registered Plant Breeders Right in South Africa and is owned by the NCP (Nadorcott Protection Company) in France.
New PMG Appointment

Lynmarie Carstens has been appointed as the new Administration Manager for the PMG (Prestige Mandarin Growers Company). Lynmarie obtained a Legal BA Degree at RAU in 1986. Lynmarie worked at Capespan for 12 years, where she started in the Finance Department and was later appointed as Company Secretary of the Group in 2006.

Lynmarie will be taking over from Rebecca Engelbrecht, who has resigned and will be pursuing her own interests. We wish to thank Rebecca for her valuable contributions to the PMG and Citrogold. Congratulations to Lynmarie in her new position. Lynmarie can be contacted at lynmariec@gmail.com.

Redheart Grapefruit Exports

The first experimental exports of Redheart grapefruit occurred this season. The trial shipments of this low naringin late maturing “red fleshed” grapefruit provided excellent results. The fruit travelled well and was well received by the market. Click here for more info on the Redheart Grapefruit.

Funnies

Only in Africa

It is common knowledge that W. Murcott and Nadorcott are the same variety. Tango was bred from W. Murcott (through irradiation) and is therefore essentially derived from Nadorcott. According to UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) a grower wishing to plant an EDV (Essentially Derived Variety) must get permission from the owner of the EDV (in this case the Tango) and the owner of the original variety (Nadorcott). Refer to the UPOV flowcharts below.

In RSA no grower has asked for, or received, permission from NCP (Nadorcott Protection Company – owners of the Nadorcott) to plant Tango. Therefore any growers doing so could be at risk of legal action taken against them.

For more information contact Bryan Offer at Citrogold.

bvoffer@citrogold.co.za or +27 (0) 21 882 8277

UPOV/EXN/EDV/1

Figure 3: Initial Variety protected and EDVs protected

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial Variety ‘A’ (Nadorcott) (PROTECTED) breed and protected by Breeder 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essentially Derived Variety ‘B’ (Tango) breed and protected by Breeder 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- predominantly derived from ‘A’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- retains expression of essential characteristics of ‘A’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- clearly distinguishable from ‘A’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- conforms to ‘A’ in essential characteristics (except for differences from act of derivation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercialization*: authorization of Breeders 1 and 2 required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* “Commercialization” encompasses the acts concerning a protected variety which require the authorization.