There's QUALITY In Arizona Citrus

Varieties Tested at University Experimental Citrus Orchard

VALENCIA ORANGE—THE NATION'S LEADING JUICE ORANGE.

MINNEOLA TANGELO — A NEW HIGH-QUALITY CITRUS FRUIT.

By Leland Burkhart and C. W. Van Horn

There is increasing evidence that Arizona is producing more attractive citrus fruit containing higher quality juice than other citrus-producing regions of the United States. A fundamental principle in the development of a sound citrus program is the availability of high quality citrus varieties over a long marketing season.

At the University of Arizona experimental citrus orchard on the Yuma Mesa, there probably is the most complete collection of citrus varieties in the nation, growing under excellent light and temperature conditions. In addition, the trees are supplied adequately with that fine quality Colorado River water and there is excellent soil drainage.

This favorable setup has stimulated a study of citrus fruit quality by the Horticulture Department during recent years. Tests were made on oranges, grapefruit, tangerines, tangelos and lemons. Quality was based on the percentage of juice, vitamin C content, amount of sugar, and the blend of sugars and acid. Results are summarized in the table on this page.

Oranges

Washington Navel and Trovita oranges are early. Under proper management in the Salt River Valley, the Washington Navel orange is the most profitable citrus variety, especially in areas where the winters are too cold for Valencia oranges and lemons. Trovita is a better producing early orange at Yuma. The Robertson Navel orange matures about ten days earlier and is a more consistent bearer than the Washington Navel orange, but the tree is a slow grower under Salt River Valley conditions.

Oasis, which originated in Arizona, is a high-yielding, early juice orange. Although seedy, its juice qualities are very outstanding, especially for Vitamin C. Other early-juice oranges of high quality are Enterprise and Malta Blood.

Hamlin has a long season and produces attractive, deep orange-colored fruit with smooth skin. This fruit is nearly seedless and Vitamin C is also high. It is well adapted to Yuma Mesa and warmer areas in the Salt River Valley. In Texas, the Hamlin orange is grown as the standard early orange and is marketed from October through December, followed by Valencias from January until May. As a parallel to this situation, Hamlins on the Yuma Mesa are of good quality from November until April, followed

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Citrus Quality in Arizona

(* Superior Varieties from Standpoint of Season, Quality and Production.)

VARIETY	SEASON OF GOOD QUALITY	LEADING FRUIT CHARACTERISTICS
ORANGES:		
*Washington Navel	Nov. - Dec.	Early and easy peeler.
*Trovita	Nov. - Dec.	Better yield than navels.
Malta Blood	Nov. - Jan.	Early pink juicer.
Enterprise	Nov. - Dec.	High yield, early, good juicer.
*Oasis	Nov. - Dec.	High yield, seedy, good juicer.
Diller	Nov. - Feb.	Good yield, light color juicer.
*Hamlin	Nov. - April	Superior color, all season juicer.
Butler	Dec. - March	Good yield, seedy, good juicer.
Jordan	Dec. - March	Superior color, mid season peeler.
Ruby Blood	Dec. - March	High yield, pink juicer.
Jaffa	Jan. - March	Good yielding juicer, high Vitamin C.
*Valencia	March - July	Late season, excellent juicer.
GRAPEFRUIT:		
*Marsh Seedless	Oct. - June	All season, good flavor.
*Red Blush	Nov. - March	Rose blush, strawberry red flesh.
Pink Marsh	Nov. - March	Pink flesh, inferior flavor.
TANGERINES:		
*Algerian	Nov. - Jan.	Superior color, early, high yield.
Dancy	Feb.	Mid-season.
TANGELOS:		
Orlando	Dec. - March	Early tangelo.
Minneola	Jan. - March	Superior color, excellent juicer.
Seminole	March - May	Late good juicer.
LEMONS:		
*Eureka	Oct. - March	Good commercial variety.
Lisbon	Oct. - March	Good commercial variety.