

Hamlin Oranges For The Yuma Mesa

Ross Rodney and Tom Hales

The Hamlin orange is one of the early-maturing varieties of oranges which may play a part in the diversification of citrus plantings on the Yuma Mesa. Some growers are now thinking of diversification as protection against some of the hazards of citrus production.

Profits may at times be reduced by light crops, cold injury to fruit, or low prices. So, if a grower has more than one variety of citrus, he has a better chance of coming out ahead on a part of his crop.

Hamlin oranges have the following characteristics which make this variety worthy of consideration for planting in this area:

1. The Hamlin orange is an attractive round fruit of medium size, having a deep orange color and a pleasing aroma.

2. It is a good juice orange, and it also is easily peeled, making it acceptable as fresh fruit.

3. Good regular production is characteristic of the Hamlin variety in contrast to some citrus varieties which tend to bear in alternate years. At the Yuma Mesa Branch of the Arizona Agricultural Experiment Station, the average production in a block of Hamlin orange trees was 273 pounds of fruit per tree for 10-year-old trees. This is not heavy production, but it is better than having a heavy crop one year and a light crop the next year.

4. This variety is a good pollinator for other citrus varieties that need cross pollination; so it can be used as an inter-plant in blocks of such varieties, providing their periods of blossoming coincide.

5. The tree tends to be compact and heavily foliated, so that a large percentage of the fruit is protected from sunburn.

6. Hamlin oranges mature early in the Yuma area. They may be harvested for the Christmas market or left on the tree until January or February, if necessary. As is indicated in the accompanying table, total soluble solids in the juice and the solids/acid ratio are high enough to make the fruit marketable in November, because a solids/acid ratio of 12:1 is quite acceptable in taste and surpasses the legal requirement of 8:1. However, it is usually December before there are enough cool night temperatures to cause develop-

Dr. Rodney is associate horticulturist, Mr. Hales research assistant in horticulture.

New Home Economics Building Will Be Dedicated Feb. 5-6

The new Home Economics Building on the U of A campus will be dedicated on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 5 and 6. Tours of the building on Friday afternoon will be followed by a banquet that evening.

President Clifford M. Hardin of the University of Nebraska will be the banquet speaker and Dr. Ruth C. Hall, Director of the School, will preside.

On Saturday the Arizona Home Economics Association will hold its annual meeting at the new building in connection with the dedication. The formal dedication services will be at 10:30 Saturday morning.

Dean Olga Brucher, of the University

of Rhode Island, president of the American Home Economics Association, will deliver the dedication address. Dean Harold E. Myers, of the UA College of Agriculture, will preside at the formal dedication.

Immediately following the dedication ceremonies Saturday, tours of the building will be conducted. Again that afternoon, from 3 to 4 o'clock, there will be an opportunity for interested people to tour the useful and beautiful new home for Home Economics.

ment of the exterior orange color.

Marketing is a necessary step if a grower's operation is to be successful, and it can be a difficult step with a new variety. Therefore, before any large number of trees are planted, it should be determined whether the fruit can be handled by a packing house or whether Hamlin

oranges will have to be handled separately.

In summary, if diversification is desired, and if the marketing problem can be solved, Hamlin oranges have several desirable characteristics which make the variety worthy of being tried, especially on the Yuma Mesa.

Soluble solids and acids in Hamlin orange juice

Date Sampled	Oct. 14	Nov. 3	Jan. 7	Feb. 8	Feb. 27
Total soluble solids (%)	8.6	9.2	10.4	12.4	12.1
Total acids (%)	0.83	0.74	0.77	0.75	0.74
Solids/acids ratio	10.4	12.4	13.5	16.5	16.3



A CLUSTER of Hamlin oranges grown in the citrus orchard at the Yuma Mesa Branch Experiment Station.