

NAVEL ORANGES: Atwood

FRUIT: Seedless, round shape, 3 inches-plus diameter equate to box count of 72 to 88. Medium-thick rind has good orange color and a texture between smooth and rough. Fruit is firm yet juicy, and has excellent flavor.

TREE: Medium-large round-headed tree with a vigorous growth habit. Dense green foliage.

HARVEST SEASON: November to March. March to April with Gibberellic acid and 2,4-D.

PROS: Excellent quality fruit with good size and flavor. No rind puffing problems. Can be picked early or held later. Fruit gasses well when needed for early export markets. Name recognition in Pacific Rim markets.

CONS: Occasional creasing of fruit.

COMPATIBLE ROOTSTOCKS: Carrizo, C-35 Citrange, Trifoliate, Citrumelos.

RECOMMENDED SPACINGS:

Standard: 20' x 20'; 20' x 22'; 22' x 22'

Double-planting Standard: 10' x 20'; 10' x 22'; 11' x 22'

C-35: 19' x 18'; 18' x 20'; 20' x 20'

Double-Planting C-35: 9' x 18'; 9' x 20'; 10' x 20'

HISTORY: Atwood Navel Orange was first discovered as a limb sport of Parent Washington (Old Line) Navel Orange in the orchard of Frank Atwood, in Lemon Cove, California, in 1935. The Atwood trees and fruit were nearly indistinguishable from Parent Washington but the fruit colored slightly earlier and the rind appeared to be somewhat smoother. The first Atwood trees were infected with a strain of Exocortis virus, which caused moderate stunting of growth, bark scaling and a slow decline in productivity. The California Citrus Clonal Protection Program first released exocortis-free budwood from the University of California Lindcove Research Center in September of 1983.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS: Atwood is an excellent quality early to mid-season navel orange variety with proven exportability. Atwood is excellent to export to Pacific Rim Markets, as these marketers know the quality of Atwood fruit and now ask for it by name. The fruit stores especially well on the tree without any loss of quality. This allows the grower many choices when the fruit begins to ripen. Atwood Navel Orange is a great variety for the experienced grower and even better for the first time grower. With good farming practices, Atwood produces large, quality fruit with a potential for good profits. When packing houses are looking for larger, quality fruit, they often look for the Atwood's first.