

NAVEL ORANGES: Autumn Gold

FRUIT: Seedless. Round to slightly elongated shape. 3 to 3.30 inches in diameter equates to a 56 to 88-box count. Deep orange colored rind with high puncture resistance and smooth rind. Holds well on the tree. Less regreening than Lane Late. Excellent sweet flavor late in the season. High juice content with low levels of limonin. Intermediate level of granulation. Less granulation than other late varieties.

TREE: Indistinguishable from Parent Washington in appearance. Medium to large roundheaded tree with deep green foliage.

HARVEST SEASON: February to June or July. 3 to 4 weeks later than Lane Late.

PROS: Best flavor of late navel varieties. Good producer of quality fruit. Superior on tree storage. Excellent ship ability and long shelf life in the marketplace. Premium price for "Ultra Late" navels. Large window of marketing opportunities.

CONS: Granulation of the flesh common. Fruit tends to lose quality late in the season as it becomes over mature. Fruit rind develops a slightly coarse or rough texture and fruit drop becomes significant. These problems can be alleviated with the use of Gibberellic Acid and 2,4-D.

COMPATIBLE ROOTSTOCKS: Carrizo, C35 Citrange, Trifoliata, Citrumelos.

RECOMMENDED SPACINGS:

Traditional: 20'x 20', 20'x 22', 22'x 22'

Double Planting Standard Rootstock: 10'x 20', 10'x 22', 11'x 22'

C-35: 18'x18', 18'x 20', 20'x 20'

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

HISTORY: Discovered by Mr. Jack Pollock of Strathmerton, Australia in 1965. Inspired by his find, Mr. Pollock searched the citrus producing regions of Australia and eventually established an arboretum of late-ripening natural mutants. In 1992, interest was renewed in the Australian late navel program and five new varieties were introduced into the Citrus Clonal Protection Program for cleanup and release into varietal trials replicated throughout the California citrus regions for observation and evaluation. Autumn Gold was included in this trial. This is a patented variety and the Australian owners and the California Citrus Nursery Society share the royalties.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS: Quality may vary with locale, climate, microclimate, soil condition, and management techniques. Finding the right location may be the key to growing late navels successfully. They may best be planted at higher elevations

with good air drainage to reduce the risk of frost damage. Fruit ripens first in the southern Central Valley, progresses north through the Central Valley and finishes with those planted along coastal citrus regions.