

# **NAVEL ORANGES: Lane Late**

**FRUIT:** Seedless. Round to slightly oblong shape. 3.0 to 3.4 inches in diameter equates to a 56 to 88-box count. Large fruit when crop is light. Light orange colored rind with medium thickness; smooth texture and high puncture resistance. Holds well on tree. Regreening of fruit in late spring and summer. Medium juice percentages with lower limonin levels and lower, but acceptable, acid content late in the season. Sweet flavor. Granulation a problem for the first 8 years but may be alleviated with management techniques and Trifoliolate rootstock.

**TREE:** Indistinguishable from Parent Washington in appearance. Medium to large round-headed tree with deep green foliage.

**HARVEST SEASON:** January to July. Because of granulation, lower juice content and excessive sweetness carrying Lane into June and July may not be feasible in the Central Valley. Much of this depends upon location, climate, management techniques, tree age and rootstock being used.

**PROS:** Balanced flavor, on tree storage and exceptional ship ability and shelf life make this a quality navel orange that can command a premium price. Holds well into May without the use of growth regulators. No premium on price of tree. This variety is not patented.

**CONS:** Granulation, regreening and alternate bearing are major issues with Lane Late. Lane also has an extended juvenile period where fruit is of lesser quality and should not be held on the tree as long. Young trees require less nutrition during this period and this helps with granulation issue. Fruit tends to lose quality late in the season as it becomes over mature. These problems can be alleviated with the use of growth regulators.

**COMPATABLE ROOTSTOCKS:** Carrizo, C35 Citrange, Trifoliolate, Citrumelos. Not recommended on Lemon rootstocks. Traditionally, Lane Late has been grown on Trifoliolate which generally imparts low susceptibility to granulation, high solids and acids, firm sweet fruit and smaller fruit sizes which is acceptable because when fruit is held on the tree it tends to get larger. But the fruit is slightly coarser and less juicy. Trees on Carrizo produce fruit that is larger, having smooth thin rind, extremely juicy and heavy. Trees on C35 produce fruit that is somewhere in between. Fruit size is a little smaller and not as firm or sweet.

## **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'x 18', 18'x 20', 20'x 20'

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

**HISTORY:** Discovered in 1950 as a budsport of a Washington navel orange tree on the property of L. Lane near Mildura, Victoria, Australia. It was the first navel orange to compete with the early Valencia orange market and became very popular in Australia. It was introduced into the California Citrus Clonal Protection Program in 1973 and released to the California citrus industry in 1981. It didn't attract much attention until published data from the U.C. Riverside's Navel Strain Trials was released in 1985. The first commercial orchard was planted in 1986 near Exeter, California. It is the standard late navel orange variety by which all others are compared.

**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 navel oranges successfully. They may be best planted at higher elevations with good air drainage to reduce the risk of frost damage. Lane may perform best in cooler climates and on trifoliolate rootstock. Do not water stress prior to harvest. This helps reduce granulation problem. Tree nutrition is important when trying to hold fruit late in the season.