

NAVEL ORANGES: Parent Washington

FRUIT: Seedless, medium-large fruit, 3 inches plus in diameter equates to 72 to 88 box count. Round to slightly oval in shape. Deep orange rind color with moderately pebbly texture. Medium-thick rind peels easily to reveal a deep orange flesh color. Its firm flesh is segmented easily. Moderately juicy with rich sweet flavor.

TREE: Medium to large round-headed tree with drooping habit and deep green foliage. Medium in vigor and size. Dense foliage.

HARVEST SEASON: Mid-November to Early March. Possibly April-May with gibberellic acid and 2, 4-D

PROS: History of excellent yields and fruit quality. The standard of excellence by which all other navel stains are compared. Holds well on tree.

CONS: Sensitive to hot dry weather during bloom and fruit setting. Restricted in range of climate adaptation. Climatic changes can aid in fruit splitting.

COMPATIBLE ROOTSTOCKS: Carrizo, C-35 Citrange, Trifoliolate, Citrumelos

RECOMMENDED SPACING:

Standard – 20'x20', 20'x22', 22'x22'

Standard Double Planting – 10'x20', 11'x22'

C-35 – 18'x18', 18'x20', 20'x20'

Double Planting C-35 Citrange – 9'x18', 9'x20', 10'x20'

HISTORY: There are many different beliefs as to how Washington Navel came into being. Many believe it originated as a limb sport of Salta or Selecta variety near Bahia, Brazil anywhere between 1810 and 1822. Others believe that it was first brought to Portugal from China and then to Brazil much earlier than this or that its parent variety was a Portuguese navel (Umbrigo) orange. But all agree that the worldwide expansion of navel orange growing started when the Bahia navel was sent to USDA facilities in Washington D.C. in 1870. It then became known as Washington Navel orange. After propagation, trees were sent to California and Florida for observation in 1873. This was the beginning of the navel orange industry. The origin of the Parent Washington we are familiar with today is still alive in Riverside and is one of the first trees received in California by L.C. Tibbetts in 1873.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS: Best grown in the central and southern San Joaquin Valley. Holds well on tree except when grown on too vigorous of a rootstock. This causes granulation, which sometimes progresses after harvest. Navels are genetically unstable resulting in countless selections of mutations being developed from this original variety, hence the name Parent Washington.