

NAVEL ORANGES: Spring

FRUIT: Seedless, medium-large fruit, 3 inches plus in diameter equates to 72 to 88 box count, and round in shape. Deep reddish-orange color with firm smooth rind. Medium thick rind peels easily to reveal a reddish orange flesh. Excellent flavor with a good sugar-acid ratio.

TREE: Upright growing with medium height and vigor.

HARVEST SEASON: December to March, and possibly April with gibberellic acid and 2,4-D. Best if picked in December through January.

PROS: Much like Parent Washington with better color. Holds well on tree. May fit into pre-late navel market niche.

CONS: Not much published on this variety. U.C. Lindcove Field station has added it to their collection for observation and comparison. Sensitive to extreme high temperatures at bloom and fruit set.

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

RECOMMENDED SPACING:

Traditional – 20'x 20', 20'x 22', 22'x 22'

Double Planting Standard Rootstock – 10'x 20', 10'x 22'

C-35 – 18'x18', 18'x 20', 20'x 20'

Double Planting C-35 Citrange – 9'x18', 9'x 20', 10'x 20'

HISTORY: Spring Navel is a bud sport of Washington Navel discovered in a grove owned by Don Fulbright near Porterville, California. It was first propagated by Willits & Newcomb Citrus Nursery around 1985 and was thought to be a late navel. As the trees matures it was realized that spring was more a late-midseason variety and filled a void between mid-season navels and late ripening Australian late navels. At first spring wasn't thought to be much of an improvement over Parent Washington, but as the years have past, it has proven to be a valuable variety during the season.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS: Spring has become a favorite with the Willits & Newcomb staff because of its great eating qualities. The reddish-orange rind color, usually associated with early navel varieties, makes spring an attractive and desirable addition to the mid-season market.