

WIFFEN NAVEL ORANGE

FRUIT: Seedless. Round shape. 3 inches plus diameter equates to a 72 to 88 box count. Attractive orange colored rind with thin to medium thickness, smooth texture and high puncture resistance. Less re-greening than Lane. High total soluble solids, sugar/acid ratio and juice percentage. Excellent flavor. High acid content late in the season. Moderate to high levels of granulation, but less than Lane.

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

HARVEST SEASON: January to April. Possibly to May or June with the use of Gibberellic Acid and 2,4-D.

PROS: High total soluble solids, sugar/acid ratio and acid content late in the season. Earliness of harvest may provide a niche in the mid to late season market. Ranks high in all trials comparing Australian late navel orange varieties.

CONS: Early maturity may pose a problem with the mid-season market. Smaller fruit size, but still in the range considered for maximum returns. Granulation needs to be monitored throughout the harvest period to insure harvest is completed before fruit becomes unacceptable. Fruit drop becomes excessive late in the season. This may be alleviated with the use of Gibberellic Acid and 2,4-D.

COMPATABLE ROOTSTOCKS: Carrizo, C35 Citrange, Trifoliate and 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:** 18'x 18', 18'x 20', 20'x 20'
- **Double Planting C-35:** 9'x 18', 9'x 20', 10'x 20'

HISTORY: Wiffen is relatively new to the California citrus industry, so not much is known about its performance potential in our citrus regions. It was introduced into the Citrus Clonal Protection Program for cleanup and was part of the Early Release Program, which provided nurseries with propagating materials in October 1999. Wiffen is a patented variety and the royalties are shared by the Australian owners and the California Citrus Nursery Society.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS: Quality may vary with locale, climate, microclimate, and soil condition and management techniques. Finding the right location may be the key to growing late varieties successfully. They may be best planted at higher elevations with good air drainage to reduce the risk of frost damage. Wiffen may actually be a late mid-season variety. It is very similar to Summer Gold in appearance and harvest period.