

Un regard sur les nouvelles variétés d'oranges et de clémentines

The citrus producer sector requires late-season orange and clementine varieties. VIVEROS SEVILLA

The producer sector has two clear demands today as far as varieties are concerned, in view of the market situation: late-season oranges and seedless mandarins that allow for an extension of the season.



In order to respond to these needs, Viveros Sevilla S.A., founder member of the reputable company AVASA, offers a wide range of varieties which is set to increase in the coming months. In oranges, the most appreciated variety has been so far Powell Summer Navel®, since it is even later than its originator Navel Lane Late and can be picked and marketed even one month later, offering better taste.

On the other hand, the Chislett Summer Navel® variety is expected to be filed in the Official Register for Commercial Varieties. This one is also a mutation of Navel Lane Late and is of greater size. There are already several experimental farms with this variety in different autonomous communities, according to Viveros Sevilla's commercial director Manuel López.

Also concerning varieties, in the past years we have witnessed an increase in the popularity of citrus varieties destined for the processing industry, and more particularly for the production of premium quality juices like NFC (Not From Concentrate). In this market, the Valencia Late variety is gaining terrain, although there are two further varieties that have recently been incorporated and will probably perform very well in the future: Delta Seedless, with better characteristics than Valencia Late, and Valencia Midnight, which stands out in productivity.

Mandarin varieties

Within the early-season mandarin segment, there are some new satsuma varieties which are set to be filed in the Official Register for Commercial Varieties and marketed soon. This is the case of IWASAKI, a variety which is as early as Primosole (its optimum level of maturity is reached short before Primosole's or shortly afterwards, depending on the year) and is also very productive, but tastes better than Primosole and its skin seems to be more resistant. The English market is very interested in these varieties because they have a mild taste, are easy to peel and

seedless and can be picked before the first clementine shipments arrive to the market.

Another great novelty is the CLEMENRUBI® clementine. This one is a mutation of the Oronules variety which stands out in precocity (around 15 days before Oronules), has a larger size, great gustatory quality and outstanding yield rates.

Apart from the already mentioned varieties, Viveros Sevilla is working through Eurosemillas in four further late-season, seedless mandarin cultivars owned by the University of California and which are currently at experimental stage in different producer regions, namely Andalusia, Murcia and the Valencian autonomous community. However, we will have to wait some time until we can see their final results.

Three of these four varieties perform as real late-season varieties for picking between March and May. The GOLD NUGGET® variety, of an outstanding taste, easy to peel and without seeds, yields 20% more than NADORCOTT and can be picked between March and April. On the other hand, the mandarins TDE 2® and TDE 4® are the latest varieties among the triploids bred by the University of California. They offer outstanding taste, are seedless, have a deep orange color and are easy to peel. There is great expectation for these varieties, since they represent a response to the demands of final consumers (easy to peel, delightful taste and without seeds) as well as to the needs of growers (high yields).

An aspect which is raising some concern is the alternate bearing tendency of late-season varieties in general. However, Viveros Sevilla points to the fact that all citrus varieties show some alternate bearing depending on the harvest date of the previous crop. "A Loretina, a Clemenules or a Navelina will also present alternate bearing if not picked at the right moment but several weeks afterwards" Manuel López comments.

This change of varieties comes to show the bid VIVEROS SEVILLA and AVASA have made for mandarins and oranges for the fresh-produce market and for the processing industry.

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