

New Variety Synopsis  
A.H. Whitmore Foundation Farm  
November, 1995

Selections that are ready for release almost immediately:

**Extended Season Navel Orange-** This navel orange was selected by Dr. Hearn in an attempt to provide a better quality navel orange for late season harvest. The resulting selection is not really a late navel in the strictest sense as it meets fresh fruit standards at about the same time as other navels. It has, however, the ability to hold good quality and enough acid to retain a good taste for up to a month longer than other navel varieties. It has more consistent yields than some of the more widely planted navels and does not seem to have any undesirable horticultural characteristics. Average fruit size is somewhat smaller than the DPI 56-11 series navels but still large enough to be well received by the fresh fruit industry.

**Mid Season General Purpose Orange-** The work with this orange variety has been ongoing for over 30 years as it was found to have an unusually long juvenility period. It has about the same season as Pineapple orange but much better juice color and few if any seeds. The juice color is essentially equal to valencia (37-39) and in some years a small amount of blood can be seen in the cut fruit. The variety should supply very high quality fruit for both the fresh and juice markets. Juice testing indicates that relatively large amounts of certain flavor components are present that should enhance its utility in blending. The operators of the DOC juice lab at Lake Alfred once told us that this juice was some of highest quality orange juice they had ever tested. The tree has very dark green foliage and tends to grow somewhat more upright than some oranges. It may need to be grown a little more slowly than oldline types as it has some tendency toward long growth flushes if over fertilized.

**Cold Hardy Tangerine Hybrid-** This hybrid has the distinction of being the most cold hardy scion hybrid to be considered for release from the USDA breeding program. It can probably be best compared to Satsuma in hardiness but has much better overall characteristics than other cold tolerant varieties. Fruit are medium in size, very easily peeled by hand, pleasant tasting, and should have less than ten seeds in the absence of cross pollination. Harvest doesn't usually require clipping of the fruit although the variety is not quite as good as Sunburst in this respect. External fruit color at maturity is a brilliant orange while the interior has a deep orange shade reminiscent of Fallglo tangerine. Yields have been good to excellent and are consistent as long as fruit are not left hanging on the

tree. The Season for this selection should run from the middle of November through about the end of the calendar year.

Selections which are undergoing the latter stages of testing:

**Early Season Seedless Grapefruit Hybrid-** Selected mainly as a very early maturing type for fresh fruit use, this potential variety is in the latter stages of testing. The fruit is much like white grapefruit in appearance and is medium in size. It is seedless or nearly so and will pass fresh fruit standards in early September of most years. The taste is very pleasant and low acid with no bitterness evident. Fruit hold exceptionally well on the tree with little tendency to dry out before harvest.

**Dwarf Tangerine-** (for dooryard or similar use) The tree of this selection remains relatively compact for many years while the fruit attains normal tangerine size. This could allow someone with limited available space to grow tangerines when they might not have room with other varieties. Fruit of this selection are of very high quality with excellent color and taste, and can be harvested from mid October through December.

**Seedless Pineapple Orange-** Three selections of seedless Pineapple oranges are being evaluated at this time. They ripen in mid season as is the case with other Pineapple oranges but have significant differences in fruit characteristics. They have a very low seed count with many fruit having no seeds. This could make them much more valuable for the midseason fresh fruit market than the Pineapple oranges that are presently available. These selections also are much less prone to fruit drop than standard budlines which should increase the actual yield of fruit substantially.

**Seedless White Duncan type Grapefruit-** Several selections are being evaluated in an attempt to produce a seedless version of the Duncan grapefruit variety. Tests are underway to ascertain whether Dr. Hearn has been able to remove the seeds while retaining Duncan's fruit quality and yield. It appears at the present time that by removing the seeds we might also limit the quality reduction that goes along with seed sprouting in late season. At least one selection of this type looks very promising at this time for late season marketing.

**Pink Fleshed Pummelo Hybrid-** A Pummelo hybrid has been developed to help supply fruit for the specialty markets in the larger US cities. We've had reports that there is a growing demand for pummelos among people of Asian descent, and that retail prices can be very high. The fruit of this selection is medium in size for a pummelo and pink fleshed.

It is more rounded in shape than Hirado and has desirable sectioning characteristics. Acidity of ripe fruit is relatively low and the taste is very pleasant. Fruit ripen and are harvested at about the same time as other pummelos. (early to midseason)

Selections that are just entering the secondary testing phase:

**Seedless Fallglo type Early Tangerine-** Two selections have recently been made in an attempt to produce an early Fallglo-like tangerine that is seedless or nearly so.

**Other Selections:** Approximately 1/2 dozen other hybrids are being observed at the present time to see if they are worthy of being moved into the heated part of the farm for secondary testing.