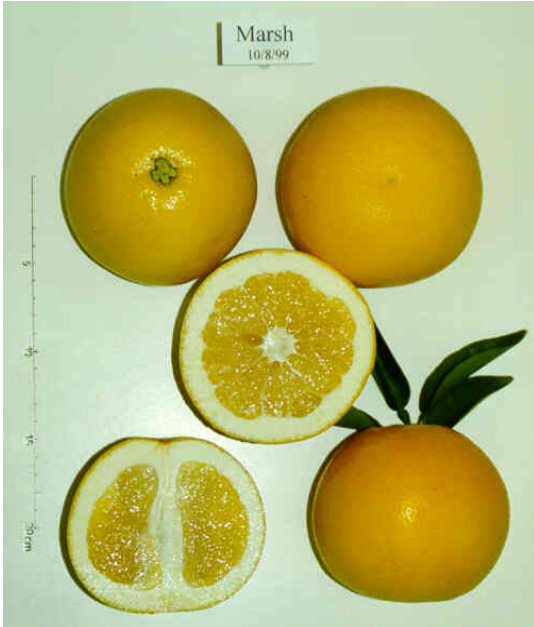


Marsh



Origin

Uncertain origin, but was most likely discovered as a seedling of Duncan grapefruit in Florida. First named in 1890, Marsh grapefruit is the predominant grapefruit variety grown worldwide. The selection of Marsh grapefruit grown commercially in Australia is the Druitt selection from Lake Wyangan near Griffith, NSW.

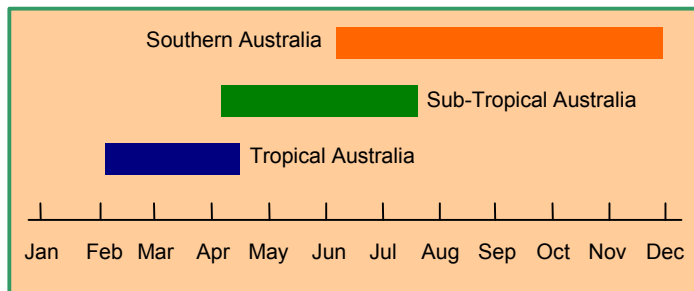
Type

White fleshed grapefruit, low seed numbers

Market

Fresh fruit, domestic and export markets. Some fresh juice and concentrate production.

Marketing season (estimated)



Internal quality

Marsh grapefruit grown in southern Australia are characterised by high fruit acidity, especially in early season fruit. Brix:acid ratios are usually less than 6:1. Late season fruit has a sweeter flavour and lower acidity. Marsh grapefruit is also characterised by high juice content.

External quality

Marsh grapefruit have yellow rind colour, fine rind texture and produce medium sized fruit. Fruit is round or slightly flattened.

Postharvest performance

Marsh grapefruit can be cool stored for extended periods and are suitable for export. Marsh grapefruit from the United States are currently exported to Japan and south-east Asia.

Marsh grapefruit variety fact sheet

Field performance

Marsh grapefruit are vigorous and highly productive in tropical, sub-tropical and temperate Australia. Mature trees are often machine hedged to control tree size, improve fruit quality and reduce harvest costs. Marsh grapefruit can be held on the tree for summer harvest (November to February). Murray Valley citrus growers developed a program in the mid-1990s to hold fruit later on the tree into summer and produce a high quality, low acid fruit. Late holding of fruit on the tree requires careful attention to cultural practices including Gibberellic acid application to delay maturity and maintain rind quality.

Pest and disease

Susceptible to the Grapefruit Stem Pitting stain of tristeza. All propagation material supplied by Auscitrus is pre-immunised with a mild strain of tristeza as a protective measure against Grapefruit Stem Pitting. Marsh grapefruit is susceptible to *Alternaria* brown spot under tropical growing conditions.

Extent of plantings

Marsh is the most widely planted grapefruit variety in Australia and represents eighty percent of the current grapefruit plantings in Australia. The total area planted to grapefruit in Australia is declining due to poor market returns for white fleshed grapefruit.

State of knowledge

very
limited

very
high

Growers should ensure that trees are propagated from Premium budwood obtained from Auscitrus.

Last Revised: November 2002

Disclaimer:

Information contained in this publication is provided as general advice only. For application to specific circumstances, professional advice should be sought.

