

## Oranges For Texas

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Fruit growers, especially those interested in citrus can hardly have missed the new note of emphasis upon variety in recent national advertising. More than ever before, points of advantage are being brushed and shined up to appeal to a ready market. It is not alone a matter of competition among different kinds of fruits as to their relative merits as luscious health foods but, as well, among varieties of the same fruits, and qualities of the same variety as produced in different areas.

### Grapefruit

Texans have not been slow to point to the excellent flavor of their Marsh Seedless and Redblush and Ruby grapefruits.

### Naval Oranges

There need be no surprise in seeing a pointed reminder by others that the

Washington Naval orange is seedless, large and juicy. The lack of adaptability of the Washington Naval for commercial production in the Lower Rio Grande Valley is relevant to this picture but not unduly disturbing to growers in that area. Inconsistency of both quality and production should relegate this variety to the ranks of the forgotten orange in the Lower Valley. Farther up the river in the Winter Garden area the Washington Navel on trifoliate orange stock is productive and of high quality. It has the advantage of ripening in November—a time when oranges are scarce everywhere. The Texas Navel, also originating in Brazil, is preferable to other Navels in the limited Lower Valley plantings of this type of orange.

### Hamlin and Jaffa Oranges

Hamlin is a standard early orange both in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and the Winter Garden. It has an enviable record for consistent good production. It is class-

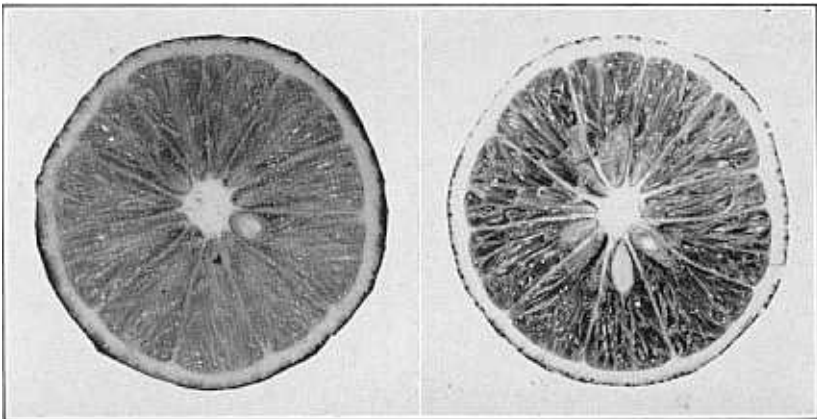


Fig. 1. Hamlin (left) and Pineapple (right) oranges are both early; Hamlin is relatively seedless.

ified as seedless although most fruits have a few seeds.

Jaffa ripens in December. In spite of having a somewhat larger number of seeds than Hamlin the quality is excellent. Production is somewhat under that of Hamlin in the Lower Valley but it yields better than Hamlin in the Winter Garden. It is early enough to secure a market benefit.

#### Valencia Best Late Variety

Valencia is the best late variety for both areas. Because of the cold hazard and a somewhat reduced yield, late varieties are not as popular as early ones. Valencia continues to be planted in the Lower Valley but receives little attention in the Winter Garden.

Other varieties such as Pineapple, Parson Brown, Homossasa, Ruby and Lou Gim Gong have been planted to some extent and have been thoroughly tested in experimental plantings, but are not

recommended and are not being planted to any extent at this time.

#### Satsuma Oranges

The Satsuma oranges should be mentioned for commercial planting in the Winter Garden. Poor shipping quality limits their market somewhat. Excellent dessert quality and adaptability to the area makes them highly desirable as a specialty crop for home market, tourist trade and by truck throughout Texas and adjacent states. They ripen in November and December to supply the early market. The best varieties are Owari, Silverhill and Morita.

As with other fruits, Texas orange growers are planting varieties that ripen during a season when there will be least competition from other regions, that have sufficient quality to insure repeat orders and that are productive under the normal growing conditions for the area.

The early varieties especially, of those mentioned, fill these specifications very well.

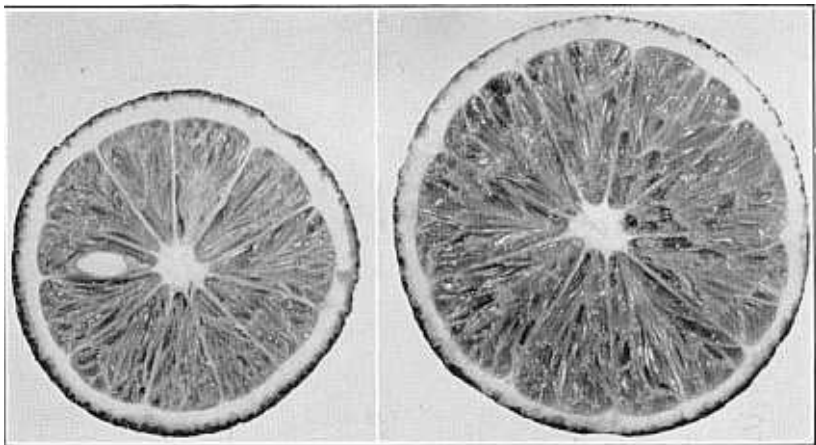


Figure 2. Valencia oranges are smaller than Navels and ripen about 60 days later.