

New high yielding seedless citrus variety 'Pusa Arun'

A large number of preferred variants of high quality citrus particularly in 'pummelo' is being grown in India, we cannot depend on importation of "improved" selections / varieties from other countries as a solution in the scenario of globalization and competition among countries. In designing this program for improvement in citrus, we have considered various citrus crops of



bearing high quality fruits can be considered for secure profitability. To achieve this, one new seedless variety of pummelo (*Citrus maxima* Burm.) has been developed, as described hereunder.



Pusa Arun: New seedless and highly juicy pummelo variety

It is a natural mutant developed from the Division of Fruits and Horticultural Technology, ICAR-Indian Agricultural

Seedless fruit of 'Pusa Arun'



Fruiting of 'Pusa Arun'

commercial importance. Among different citrus fruits, pummelo is an important crop and has been regarded as an ancient species of the genus *Citrus*. Pummelo is of tropical origin but known to have a wide climatic adaptability. It is the most cold and drought tolerant citrus species, besides greater tolerance to insect and diseases than other citrus fruits. Commercial pummelos do not exhibit bits of bitterness as exhibited in grapefruit on eating. It is recognized as an important component of the human diet, being sodium and cholesterol free, rich in vitamin C, folic acid, potassium, flavonoids, coumarins, pectins and dietary fibres. In spite of larger fruit size (> 1000 g), thicker peel, higher seed content (>100) and lesser juice content (<25%) have restricted the pummelo cultivation to home gardens only. Besides, the Indian citrus industry faces several risks including changing climatic pattern, existence of new pests, pathogens, rising land prices and international market competition. Hence, in modern citriculture, highly adaptable seedless varieties

Research Institute, New Delhi in 2020. It is seedless and highly juicy having distinct advantage of yield and quality characters over existing pummelo cultivars. This high yielding (34.30 kg/tree) variety has average fruit weight ranging from 500-600 g and juice content from 40-45%. It matures 20 days earlier than other sweet citrus varieties of sweet orange, grapefruit and pummelo. Fruit quality is excellent with low acidity (0.4% citric acid) and high TSS (12 °Brix) and vitamin C (50-55 mg/100 ml juice) contents. Trees are medium vigorous, hence highly suitable for high density orcharding. It can be planted at 4 m × 4 m distance.

For further information please contact:

A K Dubey, R M Sharma, O P Awasthi, Awtar Singh, Division of Fruits and Horticultural Technology; Charanjit Kaur, Division of Food Science and Post harvest Technology, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi 110 012 (India)