

# Two High-Quality Mandarin Selections Approved for Release

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*Fruit of 18A-9-39 'Gator Bites'*



*Fruit of N40W-5-1*

Two high-quality fresh fruit mandarin cultivars were recently approved for commercial release by the UF/IFAS Cultivar Release Committee (CRC). The first selection 18A-9-39 (“Gator Bites”) produces a ‘Clementine’ sized, easy peel, nearly seedless tangerine-type fruit with a very rich, sweet and pleasant flavor. Fruit matures in early December and holds well through January. Fruit colors well on the tree under Florida conditions (without cold-induction), both internally and externally, with bright orange external color becoming more intense in late

December and January. Fruit can generally be picked without clipping, as only an occasional fruit plugs. Fruit of 18A-9-39 has a high sugar content and sweet yet rich flavor, making it a favorite of families and school-aged children. This selection has potential to compete in the lucrative ‘Cutie/ Halo’ market. The second selection N40W-5-1 produces a small to medium, nearly seedless, delicious fruit with a unique and robust sweet flavor. This selection is meant to replace the previously released sister selection N40W-6-3 (Seedless Snack), that has

exhibited a severe granulation problem since HLB has become endemic in Florida. Fruit on trees of N40W-5-1 grown adjacent to trees of the problematic N40W-6-3 have produced large crops of fruit with no granulation the past two seasons, whereas approximately 80% of fruit from N40W-6-3 was granulated and unacceptable for the market. Harvest can begin in October, but the fruit reaches maximum flavor and quality around Thanksgiving. The fruit is generally low seeded, averaging 2 small seeds per fruit.

## Funding

**UF | IFAS**  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

New Varieties Development  
**NVDMC**  
& Management Corporation