

Three New Releases from the UF/IFAS CREC Citrus Breeding Program

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UF/IFAS CREC



Take Home Message:

- Three new scion cultivars with potential for processing and fresh market were released by the UF/IFAS CREC breeding program in the last year.
- A sweet orange-like hybrid, a seedless lemon, and a compact and uniquely attractive mandarin provide opportunities for diverse segments of the Florida citrus industry, including nurseries catering to the home landscape marketplace.
- These three new releases demonstrate the value of a broad-based breeding program to support various aspects of the commercial citrus industry, as well as to meet the needs of Florida's citizen gardeners throughout the state.

Summary: Three new scion cultivars were approved for release in the last year. First is a seedless 'Eureka'-type lemon also selected for higher peel oil production, thus having dual-purpose potential. It was tested as CE-D5-1-9-42 in Florida and in a large trial in South America. Unlike other Eureka's, this selection has been grown on Flying Dragon rootstock, so it seems unaffected by the typical incompatibility of 'Eureka' on trifoliates. The second release is an early maturing, seedless and easy to peel mandarin hybrid, currently known as RES 19-56. This selection is naturally compact, and it bears fruit precociously and annually, without cross pollination. It has a unique bearing habit, with fruit frequently produced in clusters. It has performed well in citrus under protective screen (CUPS), where its compact growth

habit is advantageous in minimizing the need for hedging. Its unique tree structure and bearing habit also suggests that it may be a valuable cultivar for Florida's many home gardeners, as it could be maintained as a potted ornamental citrus tree in poolside patios and lanais. Finally, a sweet orange-like hybrid selected as highly tolerant following more than 20 years of huanglongbing (HLB) exposure, known currently as 1859, was approved for release. Fruit of 1859 resemble sweet orange, mature beginning in mid-November and hold well on the tree until late January. During this time, their internal and external color improve significantly, finally developing a very deep orange color. The flavor is like sweet orange, though many people who tasted fruit or juice commented on tropical flavor notes.

Funding:

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NVDMC
& Management Corporation

The Coca-Cola Company