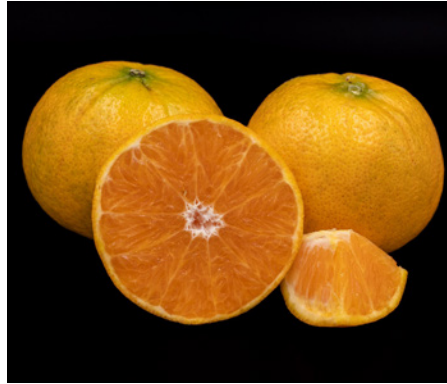


Two High-Quality Mandarin Selections Performing Well in Citrus Under Protected Screen

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Summary: Two high-quality fresh fruit mandarin selections are showing excellent performance in citrus under protective screen (CUPS). The first selection 18A-9-39 ('Gator Bites') has been released for commercial production. In CUPS structures, colorful fruit is completely seedless, very easy to peel and has excellent flavor. Fruit matures in November/December in CUPS (earlier than outside) and should be quite competitive in the lucrative Cutie® or Halos® market. Trees are very productive. The second selection is a very low-seeded selection of Honey

'Murcott' 18A-10-47. Fruit grown in CUPS is very easy to peel, and averages about just one seed per fruit. The original seedy Honey 'Murcott' was the mainstay of the central Florida fresh fruit industry, so this improved selection should do quite well in the marketplace. 18A-10-47 is through the Parent Tree Program (PTP) and is available for trial under Materials Transfer Agreement (MTA), while we work towards commercialization and budwood scaleup. Both of these improved high-quality mandarin selections were very well-received at our annual Fruit Displays and should

expand the opportunities for CUPS growers in Florida.

Take Home Message:

- Unlike 'Tango' and 'W. Murcott', selection 18A-9-39 colors up nicely on the tree when fruit reaches maturity, and fruit is completely seedless when grown in CUPS.
- Traditional 'Honey Murcott' fruit is quite seedy, whereas selection 18A-10-47 is nearly seedless and peels easily, with otherwise typical 'Honey Murcott' quality and flavor.
- Trees of both new selections are very productive in CUPS, with high pack-out rates.

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