



The Backyard Orchard – Citrus Module 1.4 – Mandarin, Tangerine & Tangelo



LSU AgCenter Backyard Orchard Certificate
Course

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Depending on Who You Ask??

There are two major citrus classification systems: the *Tanaka System* and the *Swingle System*. These have been mixed and there is ongoing genetic research to clarify.

Mandarin (*Citrus reticulata*). Commercial varieties are not the true wild mandarin.

Tangerine (*Citrus x tangerina*) Hybrid of mandarin (*Citrus reticulata*) with some Pommelo (*Citrus maxima*) contribution.

Tangelo (*Citrus x tangelo*) Hybrid of tangerine (*Citrus x tangerina*) and pommelo (*Citrus maxima*).

Characteristics

- Loosely attached, easy to remove rind.
- Should be harvested by cutting the stem.
- Most varieties contain seeds.
- Mandarin fruits are small and flattened.
- Tangerine fruits are small, flattened, and have a distinctive “tangerine” flavor. Usually a redder orange color.
- Tangelo fruit are orange in color and often have a stem bump

Ponkan Mandarin



- Most widely grown mandarin worldwide
- Strong alternate bearing tendency
- Medium thick loosely adherent rind
- Seeds present but few
- Pronounced upright growth habit
- Harvest December - January



Clementine Mandarin

- Small, sweet, usually seedless fruit
- Deep orange thin glossy peel
- Harvest October – December
- There are multiple selections, all called Clementine
- UCR Citrus Variety Collection lists 18 different Clementine selections



Page Mandarin



- Sold as Page Mandarin, Page Tangerine and listed in UCR Citrus Variety Collection as Page Tangelo
- Harvest November – January
- Small to medium fruit holds well on the tree, few seeds



Dancy Tangerine



- Large, vigorous dense tree
- Easy to peel, medium fruit has seeds and does not hold well on the tree
- Harvest December – February
- Alternate bearing tendency
- Dancy is self-fertile



Sunburst Tangerine



- Requires a pollinator tree
- Medium fruit has many seeds
- Fruit flattened with thin rind, peels easily
- Harvest November - December



Orlando Tangelo



- Requires a pollinator tree
- Hybrid between Duncan grapefruit and Dancy
- Medium fruit with thin orange rind, does not peel easily, has seeds
- Harvest December - January





Please post all your questions and results to the message board that was emailed to you.