

POM CULTIVARS – what's new?

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Why new cultivars?

- Early varieties are needed
- Replacing ACCO and HERSHKOVITZ
- Higher yield
- Sunburn resistance
- Sweeter taste
- Higher juice content
- Higher resistance to various rots



Current breeding programs

- Not to many to choose from:
 - Pom Genesis/Caliplant (Spain) ★
 - Re:inc Innovation (RSA) ★
 - Nikitsky Botanical Gardens (Crimea)
 - Volcani ARO (Israel)
 - Indian Institute of Horticulture research



POM Genesis

- Breeding goals:
 - Rich flavour profiles
 - Seedless or soft seeded
 - Early and late varieties
 - Higher yields
 - Longer shelf life
 - Better pack out rates
 - Optimum sizing
 - Planted at SAPEX growers for evaluation in RSA



Pom Genesis cultivars

- PURPLE QUEEN
 - Earliest variety – mid February
 - Very sweet
 - Dark red to purple fruit
 - 6 weeks storage potential
 - 25 to 30 tons/ha
 - Average 300g/fruit (count 12+)
 - Medium growth with high number of early shoots



Pom Genesis cultivars

- MR-100
 - Mid season variety in NH and mid to late variety in SH (early April)
 - Extremely sweet
 - Pink to reddish colour
 - 4 months storage potential
 - 40 tons/ha
 - Average 400g/fruit (count 10+)
 - Medium vigour growth
 - Low incidence of cracking and sunburn in trials compared to other varieties



Pom Genesis cultivars

- KINGDOM

- Very late variety (end April to May in SH)
- Semi-acidic
- Bright and intense red colour
- 4 months storage potential
- 40 tons/ha
- Average fruit 550-600g/fruit (count 8+)
- Medium to high vigour growth



RE:INC

- Breeder – Keith Wilson
- First crosses were made in 2008. Selected varieties from Spain and Turkmenistan were used as genetic parent stock.
- Breeding goals:
 - Improve the size of arils.
 - Reduce the size and hardness of the seed.
 - Easy release of arils from the fruit when opened.
 - Red aril and skin color.
 - Optimum sizing
 - Consistent production of 25-30 tons per hectare
 - Good storage and shelf life characteristics.



RE:INC

MXBF

- Harvest period similar to Wonderful.
- Average fruit weight 450 grams (count 8+)
- Aril weight +500mg which is 35% larger than Wonderful arils.
- Extremely soft seed.
- Sweet with low tartness.
- Easy release of arils.



When will they be ready?

- First cuttings have now been planted
- First semi-commercial evaluations will be done in 2020
- 3 years of semi-commercial trial and cold storage trials to be completed
- Tasting panels to be held and market trials
- If the variety is successful in checking all the boxes it will be multiplied for commercial plantings
- Availability from 2025





THANK YOU

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