CULTIVAR vs VARIETY
Terminology Guideline in the Citrus Industry

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A misunderstanding and lack of consistency often occurs when naming the different types of citrus fruit. Resolving this problem can be a complex issue and the terminology used by technical and marketing personnel often differs. Therefore, the following guideline is proposed to reduce, and ultimately avoid, confusion pertaining to the naming of citrus fruit types in a) the production and b) the marketing of citrus fruit.

The commercially important types of citrus are divided into six groups: sweet oranges, mandarins, grapefruit, shaddocks (= pummelos), lemons, and limes. These groups are easily identifiable in the marketplace. However, within each of these six types of citrus are numerous cultivated varieties, sometimes referred to as cultivars and other times as varieties.

Hopefully this simple guideline will help to avoid unnecessary confusion in the naming of citrus fruit types in both the orchards and in the trade.

PRODUCTION-RELATED TERMINOLOGY
• A cultivar is a group of cultivated plants with distinct characteristics. The word “cultivar” is a contraction of the phrase “cultivated variety”.  
• For example, Bahamínha Navel orange has a better fruit set ability than Palmer Navel orange.
• Strangely enough, the correct term in Afrikaans is “cultivar”, although “kultivar” is often used and seems to be gaining recognition.

MARKET-RELATED TERMINOLOGY
• Variety is used as a trade designation for fruit with similar characteristics, and is often made up of more than one cultivar.
• For example, Navels are considered to be excellent eating oranges, whereas Valencias are considered to be dual-purpose oranges, consumed both as fresh fruit or used for juicing.
• In Afrikaans the term is “variëteit”.

EXAMPLE OF THE USE OF CULTIVAR AND VARIETY TERMINOLOGY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIETY</th>
<th>NAVEL</th>
<th>PALMER</th>
<th>NAVELINA</th>
<th>BAHAMINHA</th>
<th>VALENCIAS</th>
<th>SATSUMAS</th>
<th>CLEMENTINES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAVEL</td>
<td>Olinda</td>
<td>Du Roi</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kuro</td>
<td>Nules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAVELINA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Owari</td>
<td>Oroval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAHAMINHA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Marsol</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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