

CITRUS × PYRIFORMIS

Ponderosa Lemon, Skierniewice lemon

Citrus × pyriformis

Rutaceae

ECHO® PLANT INFORMATION SHEET

Description

Wikipedia contributors, "Ponderosa lemon," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ponderosa_lemon&oldid=1203492520 (accessed July 11, 2024).

The **ponderosa lemon** (*Citrus × pyriformis*) (also called Skierniewice lemon^[1]) is a **citrus hybrid** of a **pomelo** and a **citron**. It is not the same as the 'Yuma Ponderosa' lemon-pomelo **hybrid** used as **citrus rootstock**.^[2]

Ponderosa lemon trees are slow growing but reach a height of 12 to 24 feet (3.7 to 7.3 m) at maturity. The leaves are long, evergreen, glossy, and citron-like, being ovate elliptic in shape and lemon scented.^[3] They have medium-thick branches with many **spines**. New growth is purple-tinged, as are the flowers.^[4] Ponderosa lemon also has larger than average citrus flowers, and bears fruit throughout the year. When grown as an ornamental, it requires pruning to control the shape, and may be trained as a bush or tree.

Ponderosa lemon is less **cold-hardy** than a true lemon.^[5] It bears medium to large fruit with a thick and bumpy **rind**. The fruits are seedy, and while they look similar to a citron, they taste like a **lemon**.

Origin

The ponderosa lemon originated in roughly 1887, and is believed to come from a **chance seedling** grown in **Hagerstown, Maryland**. It was later named and introduced to the nursery trade in 1900.^[3]

Though often referred to as a cross between the lemon and citron, a recent genomic analysis showed it to solely contain **pomelo** (*Citrus maxima*) and citron (*Citrus medica*) DNA, perhaps being an **F2 hybrid**.^[7] Thus they cannot derive from true lemons, which have a **mandarin orange** component.

Uses

While the fruit are larger than that of a normal lemon, they have the same flavor and acidity. As such, the fruit can be used in place of true lemons. There is enough juice for several lemon pies in just one large Ponderosa lemon, and they can replace lemons measure for measure in recipes.^[9]

References

1. Konarska, A., and E. Weryszko-Chmielewska. "Micromorphology, anatomy and ultrastructure of nectaries in two types of flowers of Citrus limon cv. 'Ponderosa'." *Acta Scientiarum Polonorum. Hortorum Cultus* 15.6 (2016).
2. ^ "Yuma Ponderosa lemon pummelo hybrid". *Citrus Variety Collection. University of California Riverside: College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences*. Retrieved 31 December 2020.
3. ^ Jump up to:^a ^b Reuther, Walter; Leon Dexter Batchelor; Herbert John Webber (January 1967). "Horticultural Varieties of Citrus". *Citrus Industry: Crop Protection. Vol. I: History, World Distribution, Botany, and Varieties (revised ed.)*. *University of California*. Archived from the original on 2008-03-08.
4. ^ "Ponderosa lemon hybrid". *Citrus Variety Collection. University of California Riverside: College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences*. Retrieved 31 December 2020.
5. ^ Sauls, Julian W. (December 1998). "Lemons". *Home Fruit Production. Texas A&M University: Aggie Horticulture*. Retrieved 31 December 2020.
6. ^ "Cytryna skierniewicka - domowa uprawa" (in Polish).
7. ^ Curk, Franck; Ollitrault, Frédérique; Garcia-Lor, Andres; Luro, François; Navarro, Luis; Ollitrault, Patrick (2016). "Phylogenetic origin of limes and lemons revealed by cytoplasmic and nuclear markers". *Annals of Botany*. **117** (4): 565–583. doi:10.1093/aob/mcw005. PMC 4817432. PMID 26944784.
8. ^ Rodale, Jerome Irving (1971). *The Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening*. Rodale, Inc. p. 394. ISBN 0-87596-061-8. "The Ponderosa bears fruit and flowers simultaneously, which makes the plant interesting as well as attractive. The fruits last extremely well on the plant, and may be allowed to remain on it for months without danger of deterioration."
9. ^ Atta, Marian Van; Marlan Atta (2002). *Exotic Foods: A Kitchen and Garden Guide (illustrated ed.)*. Pineapple Press Inc. p. 12. ISBN 1-56164-215-0.