

'Tango': A New Mango Cultivar

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During the past 7 years we have examined more than 10,000 mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) seedlings attempting to select new cultivars with better performance than the available commercial ones.

Our breeding project is aimed at selecting productive cultivars having high-quality fruit with attractive appearance. Fruit quality consists of good flavor and texture, scarceness of fibers, lack of internal breakdown, and desirable firmness. Each seedling was rated for external, internal, and overall quality. These grades were compared to those of the other seedlings and those of the commercial cultivars.

Origin

In 1985, 74 'Naomi' (Tomer et al., 1993) seeds were collected at the Agricultural Research Organization (ARO) Besor Experimental Station. The female parent could have been pollinated with several of the adjacent trees (the closest and most numerous were 'Tomy Atkins' and 'Keitt'). The results of DNA fingerprinting analysis (Adato et al., 1995) suggest that 'Tango' is the progeny of 'Naomi' (female) and either 'Tomy Atkins' or 'Keitt' (male). The seedlings were planted in Spring 1986 in the ARO Bet Dagan experiment orchards. 'Tango' (formerly BD-3/79) was selected in 1989, its first year of fruiting, based on its beautiful fruit appearance and high fruit quality (Table 1).

Description

'Tango' fruit ripen in midseason: August to September in the central coastal plain of Israel. The tree is medium in size, ≈ 3.5 m in height at 5 years, and erect. Young leaves are reddish-brown. Mature leaves are symmetric and lanceolate, with obtuse tips and wavy margins. The average length is ≈ 25 cm and

average width ≈ 6.5 cm. Petiole length is ≈ 4 cm.

The inflorescence is pyramidal, ≈ 35 cm long, and is densely flowered. The inflorescence stem is red and puberulous, with leafy bracts. The flower is pentamerous, ≈ 0.8 cm in diameter. The flower disk is swollen and broader than the ovary. There are one or two (more often one) fertile stamens per flower. The flowering season begins in late February to early March.

Fruit are oblong with pointed beak and shallow sinus. The dorsal shoulder is higher than the ventral one, the slope of the shoulders ends in a long curve, and the apex is rounded (Fig. 1). Fruit size is uniform with an average mass of ≈ 380 g. The skin of the mature fruit is thin and smooth and its color is orange, blushed with a brilliant red. The orange-colored flesh

is juicy and tender, with scarce fibers. It has a mild, sweet and sour flavor, with a mild, pleasant aroma. The fruit can be stored for 13 days at 20 °C and 21 days at 14 °C. We have not detected any disease or insect susceptibility (trees are treated routinely against powdery mildew). 'Tango' performs well in the coastal plains, the inner valleys, and the southern plains of Israel, all differing in temperature and humidity, ranging from arid to temperate. Preliminary data suggest that the yield of 'Tango' is slightly above average.

The above description is based on the International Board of Plant Genetic Resources' (IBPGR) descriptor list for mango (IBPGR, 1989). 'Tango' was distributed to growers in various areas of Israel, starting in 1992.

Availability

'Tango' is being patented, and budwood may be obtained from the ARO, the Volcani Center, P.O. Box 6, Bet Dagan 50250, Israel.

Literature Cited

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Table 1. Performance of 'Tango', 'Naomi', 'Tomy Atkins', and 'Keitt' in five traits.

Cultivar	Harvest season	Avg mass (g)	Shape	Skin color	Flavor
Tango	Mid-August to mid-September	380	Egg-like with pointed beak	Orange and brilliant red	Mild, sweet and sour, very good
Naomi	September	450	Oblong with small sinus	Orange and red	Mild, moderately sweet, good
Tomy Atkins	Mid-August to mid-September	380	Egg-like, and rounded	Red and yellow	Mild, fair
Keitt	Mid-October to mid-November	740	Egg-like, and elongated	Green	Mild, sweet, very good

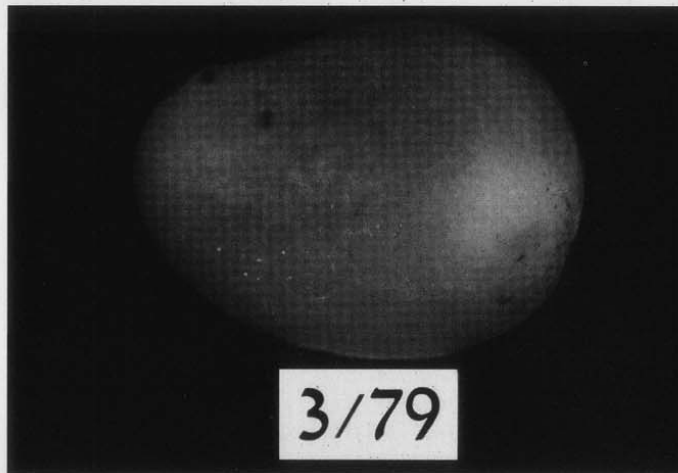


Fig. 1. Fruit of 'Tango'.

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