

## **Project 56 Citrus Variety Demonstration Orchard**

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As other countries increase both their citrus acreage and exports, California is threatened with a decreasing share of the domestic and international fresh fruit market. To be responsive to market changes and to maintain and even increase California's share of the domestic and global market, high quality citrus varieties, which are suited to California climates are essential. The Citrus Variety Demonstration Orchard at LCRE is one of four evaluation blocks in California which allows us to meet our objectives to maintain collections of new citrus cultivars for growers and industry representatives to evaluate in the major production regions of the state and provide the industry with preliminary information on the characteristics of new citrus varieties. The Citrus Variety Demonstration Orchard at LREC serves as a resource for our preliminary evaluations of new citrus varieties for trueness-to-type and commercial potential in the San Joaquin Valley. This demonstration orchard was initiated by John Perhson in 1987 and was overseen in the past by Mikeal Roose, Kim Bowman and Neil O'Connell. The collection of citrus varieties at LREC serves as demonstration material for fruit displays, tours and, periodic field days and as a resource for growers and industry representatives to observe fruiting trees of new citrus varieties. This collection also serves as a source of citrus fruit for evaluations for our CRB project. The demonstration orchard at LREC consists of 2 trees of each of 106 varieties grown on two rootstocks. The majority of the varieties in this collection are grown on each of two rootstocks, Carrizo citrange and C-35 citrange or the most appropriate rootstock for the specific scion variety. Trees of additional cultivars are carefully selected and added to each of the evaluation blocks as disease-free budwood of new introductions becomes available from the Citrus Clonal Protection Program (CCPP).