

CITRUS SINENSIS



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Citrus sinensis ‘Washington Navel’, commonly known as Washington Navel Orange, is one of the most popular sweet orange varieties in the citrus family. It takes its name “Navel” from the small opening at the bottom of the fruit that resembles a belly button. It is known for being seedless, easy to peel, and highly aromatic.



The origin of this special variety is quite interesting; it emerged as a natural mutation in a monastery in Brazil in the 1820s. In the 1870s, it was sent to Washington, D.C., and then to California, where it gained worldwide fame. In Turkey, the regions of Antalya and Finike are among the centers where this variety is grown at the highest quality.

Cultivation and Uses

The Washington Navel orange prefers sunny and mild climates. It is selective about soil conditions; deep, well-drained, and nutrient-rich soils provide the best yields. Like other citrus trees, it requires regular irrigation and annual fertilization. It tends to form a dense, rounded canopy, which makes it an attractive ornamental tree that also provides shade.



In landscaping, it is preferred for both its visual appeal and productivity. The striking color contrast between its dark green foliage and the large, bright orange fruits that ripen in winter adds a lively atmosphere to gardens. The intensely fragrant white flowers that bloom in spring perfume the surrounding living spaces naturally. Thanks to its compact growth habit, it is suitable not only for large gardens but also for use as a focal point in large containers on terraces.