

Chandler Pummelo

(*Citrus maxima* (Burm.) Merr.)

The pummelo is an ancestor of the grapefruit and is popular in Asian communities at Lunar New Year. The Chandler Pummelo was developed at the University of California, Riverside. In California Chandler is reported to be vigorous with an open, drooping habit.

Chandler fruit is early maturing, with fruit ranging in size from 400g to 1000g and round in shape. The rind is smooth and glossy in texture, moderately thick, tightly adhering, and yellow in colour, usually with a slight blush. The flesh is pink to sometimes red and the texture is often somewhat coarse. It is only moderately juicy but very sweet and has adequate acidity to give an overall very pleasant flavour.

In New Zealand Chandler produces a medium-sized tree when grown on Trifoliate orange rootstock. Moderately hardy, it could be grown in most areas of New Zealand. However, our cool climate means that fruit quality is lower, producing fruit with less colour, less sugar and more acid. Chandler should be planted as an ornamental only.