



'PUMA' GRAPEFRUIT

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Fig. 1. 'Puma' tree.

'Puma' is a high quality, productive citrus hybrid resulting from a cross between pummelo and grapefruit (*C. grandis* × *C. paradisi* L.). The cross was made and resulting hybrid seedlings grown by the Department of Horticulture, University of Hawaii.

Origin

'Puma' was selected from a hybrid progeny of plants produced by crossing the 'Nitta' grapefruit with the so-called 'Tahitian' pummelo, actually a juicy, thin-skinned pummelo, *C. grandis*. Seedlings were grown at the Poamoho experimental farm on Oahu, and a selection designated BR4T5 was made in 1978. 'Puma' is a vigorous plant, producing heavy crops of juicy, high quality fruit. Budwood has been distributed for testing at various locations throughout Hawaii.

Description

'Puma' trees are compact with a rounded canopy (Fig. 1). The leaves most resemble those

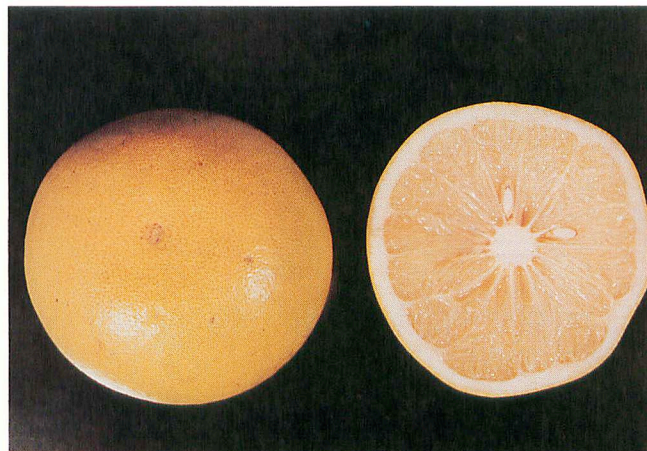


Fig. 2. 'Puma' fruit.

of the pumpelmous (*C. grandis*) parent. Average fruit weight is about 1.1 lb (500 g). Fruits are ovate and slightly flattened at the stem and styler ends (Fig. 2). The diameter averages about 5 in (15 cm). The rind is thin, averaging about 1/3 in (1 cm) in thickness. Fruits mature in late winter, and six-year-old trees have yielded more than 300 fruits. The pulp is tender, juicy, and not bitter. Soluble solids average 16 percent, and the juice has a desirable sugar-to-acid ratio. The fruit most resembles a large, juicy grapefruit with a mild, pleasant pummelo flavor. Because of its desirable subacid flavor and high juice content, 'Puma' is used primarily as a breakfast fruit or for juice.

Availability

Budwood or scionwood is available in limited quantities from the Beaumont Research Center, Hawaii Agricultural Experiment Station, Hilo, HI 96720, and the Department of Horticulture, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI 96822.