

Citrus Trees that Require Cross-Pollination for Fruit Production

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Most citrus cultivars are self-fertile they set fruit through self-pollination. Self-fertile tangerine cultivars include Dancy, Ponkan, Satsuma, Temple, Fallglo and Murcott. However, some tangerine hybrid cultivars are not self-fertile and require cross pollination to produce a good crop. Pollenizer cultivars must have four qualities to be potentially successful cross-pollenizer including a bloom period that overlaps with the main cultivar; consistent annual production of a good crop of flowers; the same cold hardiness as the main cultivar; and the capacity to be self-fruitful. No sweet orange or grapefruit cultivar is considered a satisfactory pollenizer for tangerine hybrids, even though some seedy cultivars of oranges are slightly effective.

Pollenizer cultivars for important self-incompatible citrus cultivars.

Pollenizer Cultivars	Self –incompatible Main Cultivars				
	Minneola ^{3,4}	Nova	Orlando	Robinson	Sunburst
Nova	?	U	S	S	S
Orlando	U	S	U	S	S
Robinson ¹	U	U	S	U	U
Sunburst	S	S	S	S	U
Temple ^{2,3}	S	S	S	S	S
Murcott ^{2,4,5}	U	U	U	U	U

S=Satisfactory; U=Unsatisfactory; ?=Unknown

¹Produces too little pollen unless used as the main cultivar

²Scab Susceptible

³Much more sensitive to freeze damage than the other cultivars

⁴Tends to alternate bearing

⁵Bloom does not overlap any of the other cultivars

Modified from Ferguson, J. Your Florida Dooryard Citrus Guide - Selecting A Citrus Tree for Your Climate, University of Florida/IFAS Extension/EDIS: Publication #HS 885. Reviewed by Mongi Zekri UF/IFAS Multi-county Citrus Agent.