

of the fruit trees, and the chances of fruit russet are reduced considerably. Weather conditions during the spring will determine to a large extent the frequency of cultivation, but advan-

tage should be taken of every opportunity to prevent the formation of a hard crust on the surface by use of harrows or cultivators. Pests and disease will be considerably reduced

by clean cultivation right up to the trunks of the trees.

—G. STRATFORD, District Supervisor, Dunedin.

Citrus Notes

Navel and Island Oranges

THE principal characteristics of the Spanish, Mediterranean, and blood oranges were mentioned in last month's notes, and there remain for description the navel and Island orange varieties.

The navel oranges probably comprise the largest group of oranges planted in New Zealand. Varieties include Washington Navel, Thompson's Improved, Golden Nugget, Groverley, Navelencia, Bahia, and Carter's Navel. As trees, the navel orange varieties are rather dwarf, with rounded tops

sometimes a little elongated in shape, and generally smaller under equal conditions. The fruit of this variety must be picked early, as it is inclined to be lacking in juice.

Golden Nugget arose as a Washington Navel sport. The tree has a pendulous habit, and is a dwarf grower. The fruit has deep furrows on the half of the rind next the stalk. This is more pronounced than with any other navel. Also, the fruit is large with pale yellow smooth rind and internally free from rag.

Groverley is a weaker tree than Washington, and the fruit is not as symmetrical. Like Golden Nugget, the fruit of this variety has furrows on the half of the rind next the stalk. It is large, yellow, and flattish, but not quite seedless.

Navelencia is another Washington sport, and is generally of inferior quality on sweet orange and rough lemon rootstocks. The fruit is medium to large, smooth and thin skinned.

Bahia is the old variety from which Washington originated. It is a vigorous variety, but somewhat a shy bearer and fruit a little coarser than Washington.

Carter's is a recently introduced strain of Washington.

Island Oranges

The Island oranges are of the type grown throughout Polynesia. The trees are generally thorny, vigorous

shape, but are generally flatter than navel oranges. The flavour is good, and the pulp exceptionally melting, and there are about 12 irregular sections.

Wright's is a sport from Best's, raised by Mr. H. R. Wright, of Avondale, Auckland. The tree is quite thornless. The fruit is regularly flat and uniform in shape. It has a ribbed appearance on the half of the rind next the stalk,

Reminders for the Month.

Continue systematic pruning, giving particular attention to trees affected by frost or citrus brown-rot.

Remove dead wood from citrus trees. This is the natural breeding ground of the citrus-borer.

Check the citrus trees for bark-blotch. Early detection and treatment is essential.

Apply a 3-4-50 Bordeaux mixture spray during October. This is of the greatest importance to young lemon fruits.

Harvest your citrus fruits with care.

and glossy green foliage. The fruit is characterised by a navel marking of greater or less extent.

Washington Navel is the best-known variety. Under equal conditions it is generally a smaller tree than most orange varieties. It is thornless, except for the young shoots, and has a marked inclination to "sport." Leaves are alternate, dark green and larger than with most other varieties, the margin of the leaf being entirely or slightly wavy. The fruit ripens in September. It is large—2½ to 3½ inches in diameter—and globose in shape. Colour is deep orange at maturity. The flesh is rather coarse or "meaty," but the pulp is melting and juicy. There is generally a small distinct navel and no seeds.

Thompson's Improved is not really an improvement on Washington except for its fine shiny rind. Internally, it is similar to Washington, but externally it can be distinguished by the smoother rind, a higher orange colour,



A 15-year-old tree of Best's sweet orange on *Poncirus trifoliata* rootstock at nursery of H. R. Wright, Avondale, Auckland.

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growers, but take a longer period in which to commence bearing. Local varieties are Best's, Wright's and Dacre's oranges.

Best's is a local seedling formerly known as Best's Seedless, but it is probably better to discard the latter part of the name, as it is not entirely seedless. The fruit generally bears a distinct navel, but the growth of the tree excludes it from the navel group of oranges. The fruits are irregular in

as is noted with Golden Nugget and Groverley. The fruit is smoother in the rind than Best's, but the same high quality is retained.

Dacre's is another seedling, derived from Island oranges. The tree is a strong grower, and the fruit is roundish in shape and of average size and good flavour.

In next month's notes reference will be made to Mandarin varieties and Mandarin hybrids.

—A. M. W. GREIG, Citriculturist, Auckland.