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“NAGPUR ORANGES: UNIQUE TRAITS, SEASONAL VARIATIONS, AND GI REGISTRATION”

AUTHORED BY - AVNI SHRIVASTAVA

Abstract

This review paper provides an in-depth examination of the unique qualities and significance of Nagpur oranges, particularly in relation to their Geographical Indication (GI) tag. It aims to explore how the distinct soil and climate conditions of the Vidarbha region contribute to the oranges' renowned taste, nutritional value, and dual blooming periods. Additionally, the paper highlights the importance of the GI tag in preserving the authenticity, heritage, and global reputation of Nagpur oranges, while also examining the role of this recognition in supporting year-round availability and diverse flavors

1. Overview of Nagpur Oranges

Nagpur oranges have two distinct blooming seasons each year, with the first bloom taking place in the months of January and February, referred to as Ambia Bahar. The term "Ambia Bahar" is derived from the local Vidarbha region, where mangoes, known as "Amba" in the regional language, also bloom during this same period. This shared flowering time gives rise to the name. The fruit produced during Ambia Bahar is typically ready for harvest by November and December. The lower temperatures experienced during the ripening process in this season contribute to specific characteristics in the oranges, including a slightly more tart flavor compared to other seasons.



<https://www.renuka-voyagerforlife.com/2021/03/indulge-in-an-idyllic-farm-life-near-nagpur.html>

2. Comparison of Ambia Bahar and Mirg Bahar Oranges

The following chart provides the comparison of Ambia Bahar and Mirg Bahar Oranges:

Ambia Bahar Characteristics

- Ambia Bahar oranges, harvested in November-December, tend to be slightly more sour compared to Mirg Bahar fruits.
- Despite the sourness, farmers favor Ambia Bahar due to its reliable yield and resistance to hailstorm damage during January-March.
- However, successful cultivation requires consistent irrigation during the hot summer months for optimal growth.

Mirg Bahar Characteristics

- Mirg Bahar oranges bloom in June-July after the Mirg Nakshatra, with harvests in February-March.
- These fruits are in high demand due to their harvest timing at the start of summer, leading to higher prices.
- With uninterrupted development under clear, sunny conditions, Mirg Bahar oranges are of better quality and sweeter than those from Ambia Bahar.

3. Uniqueness of Nagpur Oranges

The following points describe the uniqueness of “Nagpur Oranges”:

- Nagpur Mandarin, also known as Nagpur Orange, is famous worldwide for its rich flavor, bright color, and excellent taste.
- It is a great source of vitamin C, contributing to its high nutritional value.
- In addition to vitamin C, it contains a variety of other nutrients, including:
 - ✓ Glycaemic and non-glycaemic carbohydrates (fiber and sugars)
 - ✓ Essential vitamins: folate, niacin, thiamine, riboflavin, vitamin B6, and pantothenic acid
 - ✓ Key minerals: potassium, calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, and copper.
- Nagpur Mandarins are free from fat and sodium.
- They have a low energy value, making them a suitable choice for those concerned about managing their weight.
- The fruit also contains a range of beneficial phytochemicals that support overall health.

4. Mandatory GI Registration for Nagpur Orange Growers

According to a print edition of Down to Earth (<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/>), registration for Nagpur orange growers under the GI Act is now mandatory to benefit from the tag. The registration costs about Rs 1,500 per farmer and is valid for 10 years, with an option for extension at a minimal fee.

The Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth (PDKV) is preparing a proposal to the state government to cover 50% of the registration costs. Efforts are also underway to raise awareness among farmers about this development through growers' associations. The initial registration of 1,000 farmers has already begun, supported by the government and MahaOrange, which is expected to boost exports of Nagpur oranges

5. Key Considerations

Nagpur oranges have been awarded the famous Geographical Indication (GI) tag for its unique taste, rich nutritional value and two flowering periods. The GI recognizes the unique qualities of Nagpur oranges, which originate from the special conditions and soils of the Vidarbha region. The review paper states that Nagpur oranges experience two blooming seasons: Ambia Bahar in January-February and Mirg Bahar in June-July. While the fruits from Ambia Bahar, harvested in November-December, tend to be slightly sour due to lower temperatures, they offer more reliable yields, making them a preferred choice for farmers. Additionally, they avoid damage from hailstorms. On the other hand, Mirg Bahar, which blooms in the warmer months, produces sweeter fruits ready for harvest in February-March, but requires more favorable conditions, such as consistent irrigation. Both blooms contribute to the year-round availability of Nagpur oranges, each with distinct characteristics. The combination of Ambia Bahar and Mirg Bahar has a variety of flavors, from slightly sour to sweet, strengthening its business. The tag not only preserves the heritage of Nagpur oranges, but also ensures that their authenticity and quality are preserved worldwide.