



The Smith pomegranate (Angel Red™)

The Smith pomegranate is one of the world's earliest ripening varieties, has a higher brix content than many other pomegranates when ripe (averaging at about 18.5%) and a distinctive and very attractive deep red colour. What makes it even more distinctive is that its endocarp dissolves into a soft membrane, instead of remaining hard, as is common in most pomegranates. It also has extremely soft seeds and high juice content, as well as being heavy bearing. The variety is very cold hardy.

The Smith pomegranate was discovered by Greg Smith, a third-generation farmer and university graduate in Agribusiness, currently farming 400 acres of citrus, olives and pomegranates in Visalia, California. Smith found this remarkable variety growing as a bud sport in a 140 block of Granada pomegranates in 1996. A USA Plant Patent has been conferred on the variety.

Smith started testing the variety in the year 2000. The variety had acceptable acid levels, soft seeds and exceptional red pigment. The Smith pomegranate ripens up to four weeks earlier than California's leading commercial variety, the Wonderful. It is also bigger, has a darker tone and more of a "sweet-tart" flavour than other early maturing varieties.

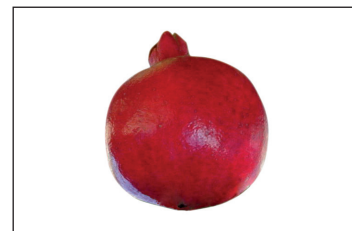
DNA fingerprinting on five of the most popular varieties of pomegranates grown in California has recently revealed that the Smith variety is not related to any of the other varieties.



Tree with fruit



Leaf shape



Fruit shape

The Smith pomegranate (Angel Red™) – Technical

Tree vigour	Intermediate
Thorniness	Medium
Suckering tendency	Medium
Harvest maturity Western Cape (Mid-season)	Very early: 5–15 February
Fruit weight average	Medium 150–225
Average tree productivity	Medium 21–40kg
Planting density	833 per ha trees 4x3m or 667 per ha trees at 5x3in
Picking	4 pickings at 7 to 10-day intervals

Storage	Optimum temperature between 6–10°C with a maximum of 4 months in cold storage
Packaging	Single layer open top carton 3.5–5kg counts 8–15

External appearance	Red
Skin thickness	Medium
Aril colour	Red
Aril size	Large
Seed hardness	Soft Tegmen 1,0–4,5
Seed size	Small
Carpel ratio	Medium
Flavour	Brix 18°. Pleasant, sweet, excellent balance

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