

DO YOU LOOK FORWARD TO DISCOVERING A MANDARIN ORANGE HIDING IN YOUR CHRISTMAS STOCKING?



A SWEET HOLIDAY TRADITION

Unwrapping Mandarin oranges is a well-loved holiday tradition that Canadians have been enjoying for over 120 years. In the 1880's, newly arrived Japanese immigrants began receiving baskets of Mandarin oranges from their families in Japan to celebrate the arrival of the New Year. Before long, everyone wanted the sweet, easy-to-peel oranges.

Ships delivered the oranges packed in nine-pound wooden crates, hand tied in pairs. These sturdy wooden crates, (that could be converted to sleds, tool boxes, doll beds and houses) became as prized as the oranges themselves. To keep them fresh, each orange was hand wrapped in paper.

On arrival in port, the crates were loaded onto Orange Trains and shipped east across Canada by rail. Brightly painted orange boxcars let everyone along the way know the Mandarin oranges had arrived, announcing the start of the holiday season.

Today, Mandarin oranges travel in large bulk shipping containers loaded on ocean vessels and are transported inland by truck. While more cost-efficient five-pound retail cardboard boxes have replaced the wooden crates, each orange is still wrapped in festive green paper.

With more efficiency and modern-day technology, Fresh Direct Produce continues a Canadian holiday tradition.



Photo courtesy of Fresh Direct Produce Ltd.

THE MANDARIN ORANGES YOU ARE ENJOYING TODAY are from Fresh Direct Produce, a specialty import business that imports and markets hundreds of types of common and exotic fruits and vegetables from 28 countries. While the owner, Mr. Davis Yung, is not a grower or farmer, he is an important part of the chain of bringing fresh produce from field to market.

"Our headquarters in Vancouver is where the action takes place. More than 20 hours a day, 7 days a week, truckloads of fruits and vegetables flow in and out of one of our 25 loading docks. Climate-controlled coolers and pressurized ripening rooms keep the oranges at their peak of freshness."

The Double Scoop on
this Week's Snack!

Mandarin
Orange

MANDARIN OR TANGERINE?

citrus unshiu = cold hardy Mandarin
= tangerine = Christmas orange

Mandarin oranges are descended from wild oranges that grew in northeast India as long as 3,000 years ago. Mandarin is the name for an entire group of loose-skinned orange varieties that includes tangerines. Mandarin oranges were named after the bright orange robes worn by the 'mandarins', public officials of the ancient Chinese court. The first Mandarin oranges exported to North America were called 'tangerines' after the city of Tangiers in Morocco.

Want to wish a friend positive energy, prosperity and abundant happiness? Offer them a Mandarin orange! A symbol of wealth and good fortune in Chinese culture, Mandarin oranges are shared generously with friends and family during Chinese New Year. Why is the Mandarin orange a symbol for wealth and prosperity? Perhaps it's because the Chinese word for Mandarin orange rhymes with the word meaning 'gold'.

FAR FROM FIELD...

A sun-drenched Mandarin orange is a treasured winter treat. Since our BC climate isn't suited to growing Mandarin oranges, Fresh Direct Produce imports them from Japan and China. A global marketplace allows us to enjoy a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables throughout the winter.

Mandarin oranges from China to Vancouver = 9,500 kilometres by sea = 15 days, 16 hours

Mandarin oranges from Japan to Vancouver = 8,400 kilometres by sea = 13 days, 12 hours

"...irrepressible source of freshness, may it hold and protect the earth's mysterious simplicity, and the perfect oneness of an orange".

- excerpt from "Ode to the Orange" by Pablo Neruda

ODE TO POETRY CHALLENGE

AN 'ODE' IS A LYRIC POEM IN THE FORM OF AN ADDRESS PRAISING OR EXALTING SOMETHING. THEY ARE USUALLY RHYMED, WITH VARYING LINE LENGTHS, GIVING THEM AN UNEVEN RHYTHM. ODES ARE OFTEN MEANT TO BE SUNG OR READ ALOUD.



COMPOSE YOUR OWN ODE TO ONE OF THE FRUITS OR VEGETABLES THAT YOU HAVE EATEN SO FAR THIS YEAR IN THE BC SCHOOL FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NUTRITIONAL PROGRAM.

HERE'S A HEALTHY REMINDER...SO FAR THIS YEAR YOU MAY HAVE SNACKED

ON: MANDARIN ORANGES • BLUEBERRIES • BABY CARROTS • PEACHES • APPLES • BARTLETT PEARS • ASIAN PEARS • PRUNE PLUMS • MINI TOMATOES

DO THE MATH...



There are 9 to 12 segments in a Mandarin orange. Calculate the average number of segments.

If each student in your class received an orange today, estimate how many orange segments there were in total:



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