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Pomelos in Mid-Autumn

| 文 編輯部 |

中秋節與家人吃完月餅和烤肉，來顆應景的柚子，既清爽又解油膩。柚子由於環境適應性佳，在柑橘類中是產區分布最廣的水果，在臺灣的北部、中南部和東部都能見到它渾圓飽滿的身影，又以文旦柚為大宗，栽種面積約4,000公頃。

文旦柚一般在白露前後採收，採後需置於通風陰涼處，待外皮顏色變淡，此時果肉質地會變軟，甜度變高，為最佳食用時機。享用文旦柚後，剝下來的果皮也別急著丟，除了放在冰箱裡有除臭效果，將果皮白色部分剪成長條狀曬乾後，還能當作天然蚊香，澈底發揮其利用價值。

「為什麼在臺南麻豆地區之外，臺灣其他地方栽種的文旦柚也叫作『麻豆文旦』呢？」

「其實，你在臺灣見到的文旦柚都是同一個品種，它在麻豆改良成功，正式名稱就是『麻豆文旦』喔！」

Pomelos are the in-season, refreshing choice after feasting on mooncakes and a barbecue at the Mid-Autumn Festival. Among all the citrus, they are the most widely cultivated ones because of their great adaptability. The plump fruits can be seen throughout Taiwan. The most popular species, Wentan, is grown on around 4,000 hectares.

Wentan pomelos are harvested in early September. After the harvest, they have to be stored in cool, well-ventilated places. When the skin turns pale, the flesh will soften and sweeten. This is the best time to enjoy them. The skin of the fruit can be kept in the fridge and works as an odor absorber. The white spongy pith can be cut into stripes, sun dried and then used as natural mosquito-repelling incense. Every part of a pomelo fruit is thus fully used.

“Why are all the Wentan pomelos in Taiwan called Mato Wentan even though they are not from Mato in Tainan?”

“In fact, all the Wentan pomelos in Taiwan are of the same species. They are named Mato Wentan because they were first hybridized in Mato.”

