

Meet the latest Panama-style variety

Keith Paxton

In about 2005, after being involved in the passionfruit industry breeding program for some time, it was evident that there were inconsistencies in the quality of Panama fruit being produced. I thought it was time to try some trial vines of my own. I sourced some Panama seed and grew seven vines, which I planted in a block near our shed.

One of the vines was very different to the other six. It was dark green, grew a heavy crop and did not defoliate in the winter.

On one of David Peasley's visits to our farm, I showed him the vine and he agreed it looked good, so David, my wife Judy and I decided that the new vine needed a name and Judy gave it the name '*Pandora*'.



We released *Pandora* to the industry at no cost. Since then, it has proven to be the preferred variety for commercial production and widely accepted across all the major markets. It is also our preferred variety for rootstock seed.

Over the years, I have continued breeding in the hope of producing a new purple variety with mixed results. There always seems to be a 'but' when looking at the criteria for a successful new variety.

Now, it looks like I have bred a new variety, which I think will have great market acceptance.

Features

- The colour is good, and while not a 'true purple' it is attractive and differentiates the fruit from other varieties
- It darkens with time after harvest
- The pulp has nice colour, is very sweet and the fruit are full
- The fruit has good shelf-life and a firm shell
- We packed a T35 carton with a weight of 9kg
- The size is 80 to 100
- The variety is suitable for vine harvest or ground harvest
- The vines are strong and vigorous with good flower production and fruit set
- The fruit and vine has so far shown good disease resistance with no blind tipping

My daughter, Megan and her husband Dave run the wholesale fruit tree nursery, Arbour Grove Nursery, and produce a range of passionfruit vines and subtropical fruit trees. They have also been closely involved in helping us to propagate and grow trial vines.

Anyone wishing to trial these vines, please contact *Arbour Grove Nursery*:

mobile 0417 622 908 / *email* megancrowhurst@hotmail.com

THEY WILL BE THE EXCLUSIVE PRODUCERS OF THESE VINES.



The new variety developed by Keith Paxton which is yet to be formally named. *Photo credit: Arbour Grove Nursery*