Som-O Thakhoi Mueang Phichit refers to the Thakhoi variety of grapefruit. The fruit is round with a slightly wrinkled top, and tastes sweet and slightly tart at the same time. The flesh is pale pink. Some fruits have small seeds, whereas others have none.

Production and processing

Thakhoi Mueang Phichit can be planted in lowlands or highlands with no flooding, at a maximum of 400 metres above sea level, on an inclined slope of no more than 3%, nearby to an irrigation system or a natural source and in bright sunlight. The soil is composed of loam clay or sandy loam with good drainage capacity, and a pH level of 5.5-6.5. Plantations depend on the quality of the land. Plantation density is respected.

Harvesting takes place 7-7.5 months after flowering, when the grapefruit has its highest sugar content. This can be seen in the oil glands or smooth peel. Harvested fruits for export should be around 70% ripe, when the fruit is still highly acidic. A knife is used to cut the fruit at the right level. A scale is also used to ensure the cutter is standing at the right height: at the joint of the branch bearing leaves. A champa is sometimes used to harvest the fruit. This is a hollow bamboo stick with a coconut on the end, which is used to catch the grapefruit.

Labels should include the words 'Som-O Thakhoi Mueang Phichit'.

Geographical area

The Som-O Thakhoi Mueang Phichit production area is located in Pichit Province, Thailand.

Link between product and territory

Pichit Province consists mainly of lowlands, with three major rivers. Both sides of the rivers are important areas for planting grapefruit as the water is suitable for planting fruit trees. The temperature, sunlight and soil quality are all suitable for growing fruit and conducive to getting a good yield.

Pichit Province is, therefore, an important and popular source of grapefruit production in northern Thailand. Thakhoi plantations began there approximately 100 years ago. The origin is uncertain, but some people say that a monk on pilgrimage spent the night in Thakhoi village and gave seeds in exchange for food. Planting grew, and the grapefruits were entered into competitions in Bangkok, once even winning an award, which made Som-O Thakhoi Mueang Phichit all the more popular.