# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract i
Resumen iii
Resum v

1. INTRODUCTION 1

1. Citrus improvement by genetic transformation 3
1.1. Citrus 3
1.1.1. Taxonomy, origin, and distribution 3
1.1.2. Citrus biology: some clues on growth and development 4
1.1.2.1. Vegetative development 4
1.1.2.2. Reproductive development/biology 5
1.2. The citrus fruits 8
1.2.1. Commercialization and socio-economic importance 8
1.2.2. Morphology/anatomy, development and maturation 9
1.2.3. Quality attributes of fruit and juice 10
1.2.3.1. Quality standards for fresh citrus fruits 11
1.3. Genetic improvement of citrus 12
1.3.1. Needs for genetic improvement: special focus on scion breeding goals 12
1.3.2. Rationale of transgenic breeding 14
1.3.3. Potential applications of genetic engineering in the improvement of citrus scions 15

2. Risk and concerns related to the field-release and commercialization of GM trees 18

2.1. Transgene dispersal 20
2.1.1. By seeds 21
2.1.2. By pollen 21
2.1.3. Containment measures 22
2.2. Unintended effects of transgenes. Importance of pleiotropic effects 23
2.2.1. Event-specific unintended effects: Position and insertion effects 23
2.2.2. Pleiotropic effects 24
2.3. Transgene stability over time 25
2.4. Conclusion and future prospects 25

3. The contribution of plants in promoting human health 26
3.1. Citrus and health: nutri-functional attributes of oranges 26
3.2. Metabolic engineering towards development of functional food 33

2. OBJECTIVES 41

3. RESULTS: CHAPTER 1. 45

Pollen competition as a reproductive isolation barrier represses transgene flow between compatible and co-flowering citrus genotypes 85

4. RESULTS: CHAPTER 2.
Field performance of transgenic citrus trees: Assessment of the long-term expression of uidA and nptII transgenes and its impact on relevant agronomic and phenotypic characteristics

5. RESULTS: CHAPTER 3. 117
Metabolic engineering of β-carotene in orange fruit increases its in vivo antioxidant properties

6. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND OUTLOOK 149
7. CONCLUSIONS 157
8. LITERATURE CITED IN INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL DISCUSSION 161
ANNEX 187