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All About Apricots

Planting Tips

Planting apricots in the winter shade of your yard helps increase the possibility of fruiting because it delays early blooming which might be damaged by frost. Moving the air around the tree utilizing a fan may also reduce frost damage. If covering your tree, use cloth not plastic because plastic conducts cold. Make sure the cloth covers the tree from the ground up, if possible.

Pollination

Many apricots are self-fruitful; however, certain varieties require specific pollination. Check the listing below by variety for specific requirements. If no specific pollinizer is stated, any other variety will suffice. **SF=Self-Fruitful**

Pests and Disease

Few insects are harmful to apricots. Coddling moth and other fruit-spoiling insects may be avoided by maintaining a regular spray schedule. **Dormant oil sprays** or **dormant disease control sprays** applied in January or February before budswell, when the tree is dormant, helps to control these pests by killing overwintering insect eggs. Further insect control can be achieved by spraying with **Fruit & Vegetable Insect Spray** or **Master Nursery Pest Fighter** three times at one week intervals when 80% of the blossoms are dead. Bacterial gummosis, a disease which causes long, narrow, damp-looking gummy patches on the trunk or branches, can be controlled by pruning; be sure to sterilize your pruning implement after each cut or use by dipping it into a 10-to-1 bleach and water solution. For persistent or chronic cases, consult our garden center experts. A fungicide can also be recommended to control diseases such as mildew where there is a problem.

Thinning & Harvesting

Because trees usually set too heavily, fruit must be thinned severely when about an inch in diameter. Trees that overbear may set little or no fruit the following year. Broken branches may also occur as a result of lack of thinning.

Harvesting & Storage

Apricots develop delectable flavor when allowed to ripen fully on the tree. A single tree will ripen its fruit over a period of about three weeks. If you plan to can or store fruit, pick when firm-ripe before fruit skin has developed its typical apricot color. When stored in a cool place, fruit will keep fairly well for another three or four weeks. Stored fruit, however, will not have the sprightly flavor of a tree-ripened apricot.

Due to the uncertainty of wholesale grower stock, trucking, and weather, all varieties will not be available at all times. Although we do have the ability to special order some stock, we make no guarantee of its arrival and cheerfully encourage alternate selections.

Available Varieties

- Autumn Glo:** Late season (ripens August) apricot with tremendous flavor. Fruit is medium sized, good color. High score in tastings.
- Blenheim:** Medium to large. Skin dull yellow with orange cheek. Flesh pale orange, juicy with a delicious flavor. Equally valuable for canning and drying 500 hours
- Chinese (Mormon):** Medium-sized, golden, firm fruit with a flavorful flesh. Sweet, edible pit. Heavy bearer. Frost resistant. 700 hrs SF
- Earligold:** Medium sized fruit; skin is golden yellow and fuzzless. Flesh is rich and juicy, good for canning or eating fresh. Needs a pollinizer.
- Early Perfection:** Large, oval, firm fruit with a large pit. Skin color is light yellow to orange with some texture on the skin. Needs a pollinizer
- Garden Annie:** Medium to large fruit with bright yellow skin. Clingstone flesh is juicy and firm. Self-fruitful.
- Goldcot:** Medium to large fruit is nearly round with a thick, tough, gold skin. The flesh is orange, firm, and sprightly flavored, excellent for processing or eating fresh. 800 hrs SF
- Harcot:** Frost hardy late bloom. Medium to large fruit with sweet, juicy, rich flavor. 700 hrs SF
- Harglow:** Late-blooming, productive tree. Medium size, bright orange fruit. Orange freestone flesh is firm, sweet, flavorful. 800 hrs SF
- Moongold:** The fruit is orange with a tough skin, with orange-yellow flesh that is mild but sweet. Considered a very good quality apricot. Pollinize with Sungold, only.
- Moorpark:** The large fruit is orange with a deep blush, sometimes underlaid with dots of brown and red. The flesh is orange, of excellent flavor, and has a pronounced perfume. Ripening is uneven, which is an advantage in the home garden since the gardener does not have to use the fruit all at once. 600 hrs SF
- Sungold:** A selection from the same cross as Moongold this apricot has a rounded, medium size tender fruit with a golden blushed orange skin. The fruit ripens somewhat later than a Moongold. Pollinize with Moongold, only.
- Tilton:** Very large, heart-shaped fruit with light orange skin. Firm, flavorful flesh. Excellent for freezing, canning and drying. 600 hrs PS
- Flavor King Pluot:** Taste test winner. Unique plum-apricot hybrid with sensational bouquet and sweet, spicy flavor. Reddish-purple skin, crimson flesh. Naturally small tree. 500 hours. Pollinated by Flavor Supreme Pluot, Santa Rosa Plum or Late Santa Rosa Plum.
- Flavor Supreme Pluot:** Taste test winner. Plum-apricot hybrid with sweet, richly flavored, firm red flesh. Greenish-maroon mottled skin. 800 hours. Pollinate with Santa Rosa Plum, Late Santa Rosa Plum, or other Pluot.