



# Rootstock Selection for Apricot

## Rootstock selection:

Apricots can be grown on their own roots (as 'seedlings'), or grafted on peach or plum rootstocks. Seedlings show wide productivity variability year-to-year, while budded trees (apricot scions budded onto rootstocks) are less variable. The grafted scion from an existing apricot plant provides the fruit characteristics such as flavor but the rootstock provides the growth characteristics of the plant.

## Important rootstock traits:

- Compatibility with scion
- Adaptation to soil and climatic conditions
- Tolerance of wet, heavy soil
- Ease and uniformity in propagation
- Influence on vegetative vigor
- Precocity, consistent cropping and yield (lack of alternate bearing) and fruit quality
- Consistent cropping and yield
- Winter hardiness and bloom delay for frost avoidance
- Suckering tendency
- Sensitivity to disease, pests, and replant problems.

**Choices for rootstocks used for apricot: Their advantages and problems.**

Rootstock	Common name/variety	Preferred application/advantages to use	Problems
<i>P. armeniaca</i> .	apricot seedlings and commercial varieties	well-drained soils, low temperature tolerant, frost hardy; good productivity, resistant to nematodes, doesn't sucker	heavy, wet, alkaline or saline soils, excess vigor; genetic weaknesses in selfed cultivars, nonprecocious, susceptible to <i>Armillaria</i> , <i>Pseudomonas</i>
<i>P. cerasifera</i> , <i>P. myrobalana</i>	cherry plum, myrobalan seedlings and clones	physical resistance to stemborer; wide soil adaptation; improve winter hardiness with high-budding; advance harvest; Ademir variety plum rootstock reduces vigor, adaptive to heavy and calcareous soils, resistant to iron chlorosis and root asphyxia	low yield, nonuniform and nonvigorous growth, incompatibility, suckers, susceptible to <i>Pseudomonas</i>
<i>P. cerasifera</i> x <i>P. munsoniana</i>	wild-goose plum; GF 8-1, Marianna 2624	wide soil adaptation, vigorous and productive; resistant to water-logging and pests; improved productivity; used on shallow and saline soils, resistant to <i>Meloidogne incognita</i> nematode; <i>Armillaria</i> tolerance	limited compatibility, susceptible to <i>Pseudomonas</i> . and <i>Pratylenchus vulnus</i>
<i>P. domestica</i> L.	European plum	good compatibility with some cultivars, vegetatively propagated, adjustable budding height; improve longevity and cropping; improve winter hardiness with high-budding	heavy soils, water logging, suckers
<i>P. persica</i> L (Batsch.)	peach, Lovell, Nemaguard, Nemared	good vigor, good compatibility with local cultivars; some resistance to bacterial canker and Verticillium; Nemaguard & Nemared have root-knot nematode resistance; improved productivity; doesn't sucker	some incompatibility, slow vegetative growth, low productivity, heavy or alkaline soils, sensitive to crown-gall and <i>Phytophthora</i>

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