



Choosing an Apricot Variety

What variety should a grower plant and why?

The grower should choose a variety that is adapted for the altitude of the orchard, with chilling requirement and cold-hardiness for either low elevation, low-to-middle elevation, or high elevation. Most varieties need at least 150 frost-free days from bloom to fruit maturity or from the last killing frost in the spring to the first killing frost in the fall. Lack of alternate year cropping is also a desirable trait in apricot variety selection, however, any apricot that bears heavily and is not thinned may show little cropping in the next year. Thus, alternate bearing can be controlled by thinning a very heavily-cropped tree while the fruit are still small and green.

Self-Compatibility:

Most varieties are self-compatible, and set fruit without pollinizer, but fruit setting can be improved with pollinizers. The introduced varieties listed are all self-compatible. When in doubt, plant 2 or more varieties and they will most likely be cross-compatible, and set a better crop than a single variety, if their bloom times overlap.

Fruit quality:

Fruit should be large and flavorful; varieties chosen in the future for fresh market should be firm enough to handle for packing and shipping. Fruit to be dried should be high in sugars; higher sugar content reduces rotting during drying. Fruit skin and flesh may be yellow, orange or white (Ameri variety, common in high elevation areas), with or without a red blush



Examples of white and orange apricots

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