

HORTRESEARCH SUMMERFRUIT VARIETY INFORMATION SHEET

Variety: Alex
Crop: Apricot

Origin: Alex is a selection from the Riwaka series of apricots, which were derived from open-pollinated progeny of Cluthagold.
Bloom period: Late season. Mid-September in Central Otago, New Zealand.

Pollination: Self-incompatible
Chill requirements: High
Maturity: Late season. Mid-February in Central Otago, New Zealand.
Fruit size: Medium – large, 90 g
Shape: Round
Skin colour: Deep orange background, with 40-50% bright red overcolour
Flesh colour: Orange
Flavour: Rich, apricot flavour
Texture: Dense, meaty
Stone: Free
Cropping: Heavy
Fruit storage: Up to 3 weeks
Tree vigour: Medium
Tree shape: Upright, spreading



General

Alex is a late flowering, very late season apricot, maturing in mid-February in Central Otago, New Zealand. Flesh colour is orange and the skin is deep orange with a bright red overcolour, covering up to 50 % of the fruit surface. Alex has a regular, round fruit shape and a high sheen on the fruit surface. Typically, fruit will reach 15 °Brix. Under New Zealand conditions is a very attractive fruit with good eating quality.

Cultivation

The variety is best grown in typical apricot-growing regions with a cold winter and low frost risk in spring or on sites that are frost-protected in spring. Sites should be well drained with adequate irrigation. Best grown as vase shaped trees planted from 3 – 4 metres within-row and 4 – 5 m between rows. Pruning and training of young trees to a standard multi-leader (5 – 6) will give best results. Other training systems not tested, but may be grown as a single leader tree or on trellis.

Although self-incompatible and late flowering, there has usually been sufficient overlap with other varieties such as Cluthagold, Vulcan (Riwaka 5/67) and Sundrop for good pollination to occur, where these varieties are included in the orchard mix.

Harvest

Fruit should be picked at least 12° Brix for optimum eating experience with higher brix giving best results. Although Alex is very firm at harvest, fruit should be handled with care through the harvest, sorting, grading and packing procedures.