

## HORTRESEARCH SUMMERFRUIT VARIETY INFORMATION SHEET

**Variety:** Cluthafire  
**Crop:** Apricot

**Origin:** Cluthafire is a selection from the Riwaka series of apricots, which were derived from open-pollinated progeny of Cluthagold.



**Bloom period:** Early to mid September in Central Otago, New Zealand. Bloom period overlaps with most varieties.

**Pollination:** Requirements unknown but appears to set fruit freely in presence of other apricots

**Chill requirements:** High. Similar to Vulcan and Cluthagold.

**Maturity:** Mid-late January in Central Otago, New Zealand. Similar to Cluthagold.

**Fruit size:** Medium-large, 100 –110 g

**Shape:** Ovate

**Skin colour:** Orange background, with 30 – 50% red-blush overcolour

**Flesh colour:** Orange

**Flavour:** Good apricot flavour, similar to Vulcan

**Texture:** Dense, meaty

**Stone:** Free

**Cropping:** Heavy

**Fruit storage:** 3 weeks

**Tree vigour:** Medium

**Tree shape:** Spreading

### General

Cluthafire is a medium-large sized apricot with round shape. Flesh is orange and skin colour is bright-orange with up to 50% bright red blush. Flesh is firm and juicy with excellent apricot flavour and free stone. The variety is exceptionally attractive with good eating quality when grown well. Fruit typically, reach 15° Brix. Cluthafire matures in a similar harvest period to Cluthagold, but can be distinguished from Cluthagold as Cluthafire fruit tend to be smaller and of rounder shape.

### Cultivation

The variety is best grown in typical apricot-growing regions with a cold winter and low frost risk in spring or 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 or on trellis. Although pollination requirements are not fully known, good pollination and fruit set has occurred when other varieties such as Cluthagold, Vulcan (Riwaka 5/67) and Sundrop 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 Benmore is very firm at harvest, fruit should be handled with care through the harvest, sorting, grading and packing procedures.

The orange skin colour in combination with the red blush makes the fruit very attractive when packed.