

HORTRESEARCH SUMMERFRUIT VARIETY INFORMATION SHEET

Variety: Mascot
Crop: Apricot



Origin: Mascot originated from a cross between 'Valleygold', (seed parent) and 'Earlirl' (pollen parent). 'Valleygold' is an unpatented Canadian variety derived from Vineland, Canada released as V66052.

Bloom period: Early season. Early September in Central Otago New Zealand.

Pollination: Self-fertile

Chill requirements: Medium

Maturity: Early season. Late December – early January in Central Otago, New Zealand.

Fruit size: Medium 80 – 90 g

Shape: Round ovate

Skin colour: Deep orange background, with 70-80% intense red overcolour

Flesh colour: Orange

Flavour: Sweet, rich apricot flavour

Texture: Firm, dense

Stone: Free

Cropping: Heavy

Fruit storage: Up to 3 weeks

Tree vigour: High

Tree shape: Upright

General

Mascot is a medium-sized fruit of round-ovate shape. Flesh is orange and skin colour is bright orange with about 75% dark red blush and sheen. Flesh is firm and juicy with a sweet apricot flavour and free stone. The variety is very attractive when grown well. Typically, fruit will reach 15°Brix. Fruit matures in late-December – early January in Central Otago, New Zealand. Trees are vigorous and upright similar to the 'Valley Gold' parent. Fruit is most similar to the Orangered variety but matures about 5 days earlier.

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. Trees should be 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) is recommended. Other training systems not tested, but trellising may be difficult because of the vigour and upright growth characteristic.

Harvest

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