

HORTRESEARCH SUMMERFRUIT VARIETY INFORMATION SHEET

Variety: Riwaka 5/67 (Vulcan)
Crop: Apricot



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

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

Pollination: Self-incompatible

Chill requirements: High

Maturity: Mid-season in Central Otago, New Zealand. Typically late January to early February in Central Otago, New Zealand.

Fruit size: Very large, 130 - 150 g

Shape: Irregular rhomboidal in lateral view. Ovate in frontal view.

Skin colour: Deep orange background, with 30 -50% intense red overcolour

Flesh colour: Orange

Flavour: Rich apricot

Texture: Dense, meaty, firm

Stone: Free

Cropping: Heavy

Fruit storage: Up to 3 weeks

Tree vigour: Medium

Tree shape: Displays slightly drooping habit in the nursery, but usually seen as spreading in orchards.

General

The flesh of Vulcan is orange and skin colour is bright orange with up to 50% red overcolour. The skin develops a very attractive sheen under New Zealand conditions of low humidity. Fruit matures in late January, usually 5 days after Cluthagold. Requires a polliniser such as Cluthagold or Sundrop to set good crops.

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. The spreading drooping habit of Riwaka 5/67 lends itself to trellising systems. Although self-incompatible, good pollination and fruit set has occurred when other varieties such as Cluthagold 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 Vulcan is very firm at harvest, fruit should be handled with care through the harvest, sorting, grading and packing procedures.