

APRICOTS

Apricots can be difficult to grow in the Pacific Northwest, but if successful, the home gardener will enjoy a fruit that is delicious eaten fresh, dried, canned, frozen and otherwise preserved. Apricots tend to bloom during warm spurts (above 40°F) in late winter. This means that their blooms have a tendency to be damaged by frost. It is a good idea to buy later-blooming varieties to avoid this possibility.

Dormant sprays are a very important tool to growing on Apricots successfully west of the Cascades. They will provide much needed protection from fungal problems. Copper sprays can be used, but **never use sulfur on apricots**. Please see the Dormant Spray Schedule available at our Information booth for details.

Apricots are self-fruitful, and therefore do not require a pollinator. Apricots should be pruned annually, lightly when young and moderately at maturity. The trees have a similar habit to cherries and should be pruned to a modified central leader, and a shape suitable to your garden. The fruits need to be thinned since the trees set unusually heavy crops.

VARIETIES

CHINESE MORMON	Medium size, yellow to orange fruit with good flavor, texture and quality. Clingstone flesh. Blooms late for frost-resistant budding & ripens in July.
PUGET GOLD	Large, elongated freestone fruit with very good flavor. Prolific bearer. Sets and sizes fruit in cool, frosty spring weather where other varieties fail. Small tree can easily be maintained at 15'. Ripens in August.
WENATCHEE MOORPARK	Large, oval fruit with yellow skin and flavorful flesh. Good all-purpose apricot. Bears heavily and ripens in July. Dwarf tree. Recommended for climates where spring rains and frost limit apricot culture.