

APRICOTS



Apricots can be difficult to grow in the Pacific Northwest; but a successful home gardener will enjoy fruit that is delicious eaten fresh, dried, canned, frozen, and otherwise preserved.

Apricots bloom during warm periods (above 40°F) in late winter. This means their flowers may be damaged by frost, and in a wet spring, pollination can be inhibited. It's wise to select later blooming varieties to avoid frost damage. If we see heavy rains that decrease insect activity during flowering, consider hand-pollinating by collecting pollen on a soft paint brush and moving it from flower to flower.

Dormant sprays are a critical tool for growing apricots successfully west of the Cascades. They provide much needed protection from fungal problems. Copper sprays can be used, but never use sulfur on apricots. Pick up the *Organic Care Schedule* from our Info Desk to learn about insect and fungal issues.

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. Fruits must be thinned as the trees set unusually heavy crops.

If you have questions please stop by our Information Desk. *We're happy to help!*

Varieties Expected for 2024

HARGLOW	Self-fruitful. Compact, productive, late blooming tree produces med, bright orange fruit with good texture and flavor. Good disease resistance. Ripens late July.
PIXIE-COT	Self-fruitful. Genetic semi-dwarf to 10', yields medium-sized, high quality fruit. Bright gold skin with very sweet and juicy, cream colored flesh.
PUGET GOLD	Self-fruitful. 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.
TILTON	Self-fruitful. Fine flavored, golden yellow fruit blushed dark red, is medium-sized and heart-shaped. Good choice for fresh eating, canning, and drying. Hardy and productive. Ripens late July.
WENATCHEE MOORPARK	Self-fruitful. Large, oval, freestone fruit with yellow-orange skin and flesh, and excellent flavor. Prolific bearer. Sets and sizes fruit in cool, frosty spring weather where other varieties fail. Grows to 10-15', ripens July-August.