

THE EXOTIC, THE UNIQUE WORLD OF PRUNUS HYBRIDS!

Prunus is a big genus that includes cherries, plums, peaches and nectarines, apricots, and even non-edible ornamental trees and shrubs. These species most often reproduce within their own kind, but some species cross more readily than others, and many hybrids have been in cultivation for hundreds of years, like some of our familiar varieties of plums. *Hybrids are not GMOs.*

Adventurous growers (in the case of the below, the Zaiger family of California) have been working on creating new hybrids that combine familiar characteristics into interesting new taste sensations, so if you're looking for something a little different, check out these fun trees.

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Aprium® - a cross between an apricot and a plum.
'Flavor Delight' Looks like an apricot, but with extra flavor boost from the plum. Self-fertile , but will bear more heavily with an apricot for company. Note that it is an early bloomer, so bloom may be damaged by late frosts.
Cherry-plum – is actually the common name of one of the parent species (<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>), which bears small round plum-type fruits. These hybrids include <i>P cerasifera</i> and Japanese plums in a productive tree that can handle wet springs. They pollinize each other; plant both varieties.
'Delight' – Dark skin and golden, clingstone, tangy flesh.
'Sprite' – Dark skin and golden, freestone, sweet flesh.
Nectaplum® – nectarine and plum cross to make a very ornamental tree with big pink flowers.
'Spice Zee' looks like a nectarine, but has flavor traits of both parents. Self-fertile.
Pluerry™ – you might have guessed, these combine plums and sweet cherries for a fruit that's between those in size, generally prolific, and with intriguing flavor combinations.
'Candy Heart' Dark red skin, red flesh, ripe around August. Pollinize with Sweet Treat pluerry or Burgundy plum.
'Sugar Twist' Red skin, yellow flesh, ripe in mid June. Pollinize with Flavor King pluot, another pluerry, or a mid to late blooming plum.
'Sweet Treat' Red skin, yellow flesh, bears heavily in July. Pollinize with Santa Rosa or Burgundy plum, or Flavor King pluot.
Pluot® -- yes, another form of plum-apricot cross, but more plum-like than the aprium, and with a more complex 'family tree'. Some pluots can even be found at the grocery store!
'Dapple Dandy' Green and red dappled skin covers red-pink luscious flesh. Pollinize with Flavor King pluot, Santa Rosa, or Burgundy plum.
'Flavor King' Reddish-purple skin, red-gold flesh, sweet, spicy flavor. Pollinize with Dapple Dandy pluot or Santa Rosa plum.