



APRICOTS

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

Apricots tend to 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 a good idea 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 paint brush and moving it from flower to flower.

Dormant sprays are a critical tool for growing 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. Pick up the *Organic Care Schedule* from our Information Desk to learn more about treating 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. The fruits need to be thinned since the trees set unusually heavy crops.

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| HARGLOW | Self-fertile. Compact, productive, late blooming tree produces medium, bright orange fruit with good texture and flavor. Good disease resistance. Ripens late July. |
| PIXIE-COT | Self-fertile. 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-fertile. 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-fertile. 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. |