

WHAT TO PLANT
THIS FALL

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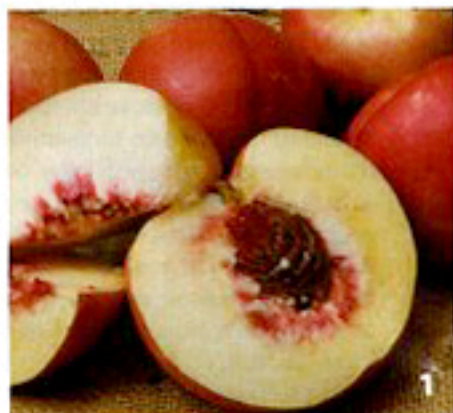
Dennis Tarry

A fruit tree expert names his top three for taste

THE SON OF an accomplished plant pathologist/geneticist, Dennis Tarry grew up working row crops in the Midwest and then farming orchards in California's Central Valley. He began a career in health-care administration, but his passion for farming and orchard production lured him to Dave Wilson Nursery, one of the largest growers of fruit, nut and shade trees for consumer and commercial markets in the United States. In 2006, Dennis was named its CEO. In his spare time he farms 700 acres and enjoys riding horses with his wife and four children. Here are three of Dennis's favorite taste-tempting fruits.

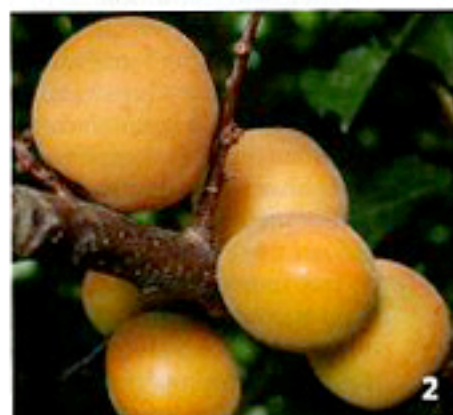
1 'Spice Zee' NectaPlum

The first NectaPlum ever developed from Zaiger Genetics is a white-fleshed, nectarine-peach-plum hybrid that is self-fruitful (no pollinator needed) and hardy to USDA Zone 6. This hybrid has dark maroon skin at fruit set; it turns pale pink when ripe. Fully mature fruit gives you the best of two worlds, with both nectarine and plum tastes easily detectable. The tree is more than a fruit-making machine; it has ornamental characteristics, including prolific purplish-pink blooms in the spring and leaves that emerge red and then turn a lush green. Zones 6-10.



2 'Blenheim' Apricot

A classic, 'Blenheim' is the long-time favorite apricot in California, and the top scorer in taste tests at Dave Wilson. It's also known as the 'Royal' or 'Royal Blenheim'. This early bloomer is a self-fruiter that produces sweet, aromatic, flavorful freestone fruit. It needs well-drained, moderately fertile soil. Zones 7-8.



3 'Sweet Treat' Pluerry

'Sweet Treat' is the first of its kind—a pluerry. This new fruit type, again from breeder Floyd Zaiger of Zaiger Genetics, is a complex interspecific hybrid, predominantly of plum and cherry. 'Sweet Treat' fruit gives you the sweetness of a cherry with that summer-fresh plum "pop" in each bite. Don't let the cherry heritage fool you, though; the fruit is much larger than a cherry, about the size of a Ping-Pong ball, with red skin and yellow flesh. The abundant fruit will hang on the tree for over a month even when it's ripe! This tree will need a pollinizer. 'Burgundy' plum is recommended. Zones 6-9. ♀



MARIA ZAMPINI introduces new plants to market through her company, UpShoot LLC.