BIOFRUITNET
Boosting Innovation in ORGANIC FRUIT production through stronger networks

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PRACTICE ABSTRACT

Apricots cultivars suited for organic production in the Mediterranean region

Problem

Planting cultivars not adapted to local conditions leads to agronomical difficulties in organic fruit production.

Solution

Choosing cultivars well suited to biotic (e.g., pests and diseases) and abiotic conditions (e.g., chilling requirements (vernalisation), soil type) is a key to sustainable organic apricot production.

Benefits

Adapted varieties make orchard management easier, less reliant on plant protection, and less risky from an economic point of view.

Applicability box

Theme

Crop production, Plant breeding

Keywords

Temperate fruits, Varieties

Context

Mediterranean region

Application time

Before the plantation of an orchard

Period of impact

Orchard lifespan

Practical recommendation

- The Mediterranean region covers a very large area in Europe. The list of cultivars presented below synthesises observations realised in the south of France (mild winter, hot and dry summer, average annual rainfall of about 800 mm).
- In the context of climate change, some cultivars that were once well adapted could be someday less recommendable. For example, for reasons of unsatisfied chilling needs. We recommend getting information on the chilling requirements of the variety before planting (e.g., from the nursery, other farmers or experimental stations). For specific information on blossom brown rot susceptibility[1].
- The diversity of varieties planted on a farm improves the farm's economic resilience.

List of apricot cultivars suited for organic farming in Mediterranean region (with required irrigation supply)

Period of harvest	Cultivars	Main qualities	Main drawbacks
Very early	Sefora Cov	Self-pollinating, fruit quality, fruit appearance, flowering intensity	Fruit susceptible to rain markings
Very early	Wonder Cot Cov	Fruit quality, PPV* resistant, fruit storage	Visual aspect
Early	Flopria (Picture 1)	Self-pollinating, flowering intensity, Plum Pox Virus resistant, fruit storage	Flower thinning necessary, high fruit acidity if harvested too early
Early	Tom Cot cov (Picture 2)	Self-pollinating, low-skin susceptibility, fruit storage, flowering intensity	Low fruit quality if harvested too early, calibre, visual aspect (colouring)
Early	Samouraï (Picture 3)	Fruit appearance (intense blush), strong vigour, low-skin susceptibility	Gummosis, not self-pollinating
Early	Big Red cov	Fruit quality, visual aspect, storage	High-skin susceptibility, fruit size

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Season	Orange Rubis cov	Self-pollinating, flowering intensity, fruit quality, visual aspect (blush)	Differentiated fruit ripening, Canker and rust susceptibilities, susceptibility to *Hyalopterus pruni*
Season	Royal Roussillon cov	Self-pollinating, fruit quality, low-skin susceptibility	Rust susceptibility, fruit size
Season	Vertige cov	Self-pollinating, fruit quality, storage, steady production	Visual aspect (colouring)
Season	Orangé de Provence	Self-pollinating, fruit quality	Visual aspect (colouring), storage, blossom brown rot susceptibility
Late	Harogem cov	Self-pollinating, fruit quality, visual aspects (colouring), storage	Irregular production, calibre, picking at maturity needed, gummosis

*Plum pox virus

Picture 1. Flopria cultivar. Picture: CE. Parveaud, GRAB

Picture 2. Tom Cot cultivar. Picture: CE. Parveaud, GRAB

Picture 3. Samouraï cultivar. Picture: C. Boutry, FiBL.

Further information

Further reading

- Evaluation Variétale d'Abricotiers et de pêchers pour l'agriculture biologique (FR)
- Co-construction d'un calendrier de maturité pour toute la filière. Quelles variétés d'abricot pour la bio? (FR)

Weblinks

- Variétés et porte-greffe de l'abricotier. CTIFL website. (FR)
- Variétés d'abricotier recommandées pour l'agriculture biologique. FiBL website. (DE, FR)
- GRAB website. (FR)

1. Parvaud, C.-E. 2022. Practice abstract Susceptibility of apricot cultivars to blossom brown rot. GRAB. BIOFRUITNET.

- Check the Organic Farm Knowledge platform for more practical recommendations.

About this practice abstract

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