

'Dagan' Almond¹

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Additional index words. *Prunus amygdalus*, fruit breeding

'Dagan' is a high-yielding, semi-hard-shelled, well-sealed, highly flavored and uniform cultivar of almond (*Prunus amygdalus* Batsch), without doubles (Fig. 1).

Origin

'Dagan' originated from a cross between 'Marcona' × 'Poria' 10, made in 1966 by the Division of Fruit Tree Breeding. It was selected in 1970 as seedling Bet Dagan 6-68-66-26, and distributed for test planting in the form of top-grafts (1971). The original seedling fruited for 6 consecutive years and 3 harvests have been obtained on the top-worked trees. Additional test trees were set up from budded nursery trees on bitter almond and Nemaguard peach at 2 locations.

Description

Tree. Growth is very vigorous, well branched, somewhat pendulous; shape is fairly wide during fruiting stage. Bears part (about 50%) on spurs, part on short laterals. Flowering period coinciding

with that of 'Ne Plus Ultra' and 'Solo'. Compatibility with 'Solo' not tested. Crosspollinates with 'Ne Plus Ultra' and 'Greek'.

Nut. Hulls easily; semi-hard shell, completely sealed (not attacked by orange moth, *Ectomyelois ceratoniae* Zeller); kernel small-medium, very uniform, roundish to somewhat elonga-

ted, well filled with smooth surface. Seed coat medium to dark brown. No doubles. Highly flavored, with distinct aroma. In-shell wt, 2.5 g; kernel wt 1.0–1.1 g; shell-out, 35–38%. Average seed dimensions are 21 mm (length), 14 mm (width) 9 mm (thick). Shell medium brown, smooth and attractive. Upper seam most pronounced. Adapted for all uses: in shell, kernels, and confectionery. Distinct aroma. Kernel appearance might benefit from blanching.

Yield. Kernel yields per tree usually very good, equal to, or higher than those of standard cultivars.

Availability

Patent pending. Budwood will be available from the authors, at the Volcani Center, Bet Dagan, Israel. Tested virus free budwood will be available in 1977.

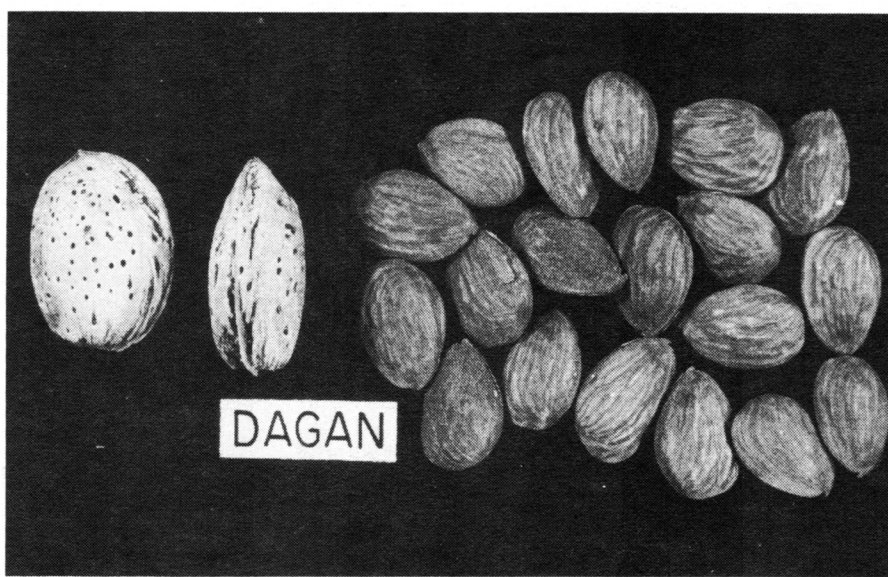


Fig. 1. Nuts and kernels of 'Dagan' almond.

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²The assistance of Mr. Y. Baron and Mr. R. Iris is appreciated.

'Solo' Almond¹

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Additional index words. *Prunus amygdalus*, fruit breeding

'Solo' is a high-shell-out, well-filled, good shaped uniform almond (*Prunus*

amygdalus Batsch) with no doubles (Fig. 1).

Origin

'Solo' originated from a cross between 'Marcona' × 'Greek', made in 1966 by the Division of Fruit Tree Breeding. It was selected in 1970 as seedling Bet Dagan 4-04-66-05, and dis-

tributed for test planting in the form of topgrafts (1971). The original seedling fruited for 6 consecutive years, and 3 harvests have been obtained from top worked trees. Additional test trees were set up from budded nursery trees on bitter almond and Nemaguard peach at two locations.

Description

Tree. Growth is very vigorous, well branched, and upright. Widens upon bearing. Fruiting mainly on spurs. Flowering period coinciding with that of 'Ne Plus Ultra' and 'Dagan'. Cross-pollinates with 'Ne Plus Ultra' and 'Greek'.

Nut. Hulls easily, soft, paper shell, partly open. Kernel of medium size, regular, somewhat elongated. In-shell wt 2.3 g, kernel wt 1.4 g, average shell-out 58–62%. Average seed dimensions 23 mm (length) 14 mm (width), 8 mm

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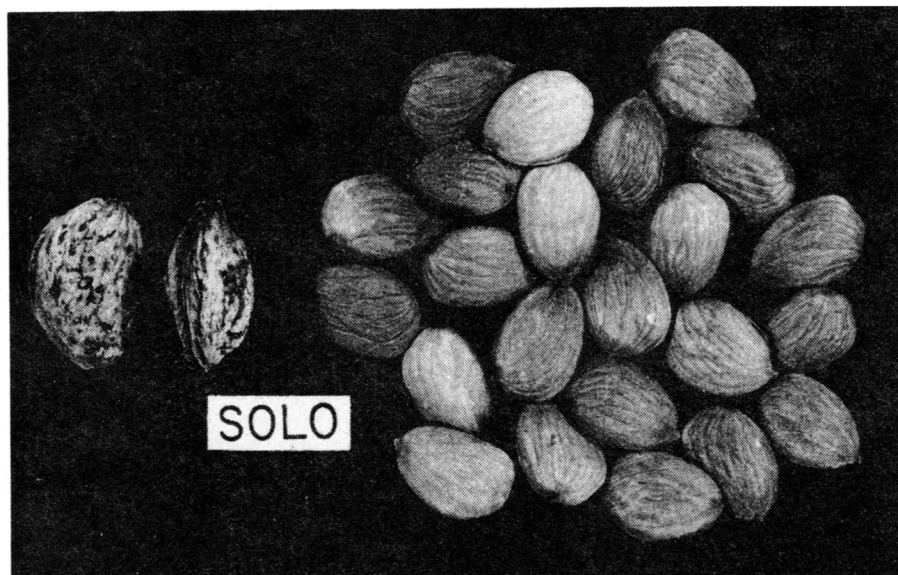


Fig. 1. Nuts and kernels of 'Solo' almond.

(thick).

Outer shell not attractive, soft, with cracks. Seed coat medium brown, well filled, smooth, even surface, well shaped, very uniform size, consistently without any double kernels. Taste is good, neutral, and slightly sweet. Adapted for confectionery and sugared almonds, and when good sized also for table use (shelled).

Yield. Medium to good, about equal to 'Ne Plus Ultra', somewhat below 'Greek'.

Availability

Patent pending. Budwood will be available from the authors, at the Volcani Center, Bet Dagan, Israel. Tested virus free budwood will be available in 1977.

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'Patriot' Blueberry¹

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Additional index words. *Vaccinium corymbosum*, fruit breeding

'Patriot' a new hardy blueberry, *Vaccinium corymbosum* L., originated in the cooperative blueberry breeding program of the Maine Life Sciences and Agriculture Experiment Station and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It has performed well at Jonesboro, Maine, Maryland, North Carolina, and Oregon. The name 'Patriot' was assigned in recognition of the U.S. Bicentennial.

Origin

'Patriot', tested as MeUS-32, originated from a cross between 'US-3' ('Dixi' × 'Mich. LB-1') × 'Earliblue' made at Beltsville, Maryland. Seedlings of this particularly vigorous

progeny were planted in Jonesboro, Maine in 1954. MeUS-32 was selected by Dr. Leslie Whitton in 1957.

Description

'Patriot' is an upright, relatively open, vigorous highbush, even though one of its grandparents, 'Mich. LB-1', was lowbush, *V. angustifolium* Ait. (3). In Jonesboro, Maine, where minimum temperatures reach -29°C most years, 'Patriot' attains a height of about 1.5 m. In warmer climates, it is typically highbush in growth habit. In Maine, it bears more consistently and with higher yields than other highbush cultivars. Plant survival has also been superior.

'Patriot' has large, slightly flattened fruit that in 1975 averaged 2.6 g (49 per cup) at midharvest, and 2.0 g (70 per cup) in late harvest. The fruit is firm and the scar is very small, dry and recessed. Color is good and the flavor is very good, equal to or superior to other selections or cultivars. It begins ripening between 'Earliblue' and 'Blue-

crop' and with 'Collins'. 'Patriot' may require fruit bud thinning to concentrate ripening and harvest.

'Patriot' is the only known source of resistance to root-rot caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi* Rands in a commercial type blueberry (1, 2). It is expected to extend northward the range under which blueberries may be grown. It is thus expected to be adapted to home garden and market garden enterprises, particularly in the Northeast. Its use as a replacement variety for commercial plantings has not been determined.

Availability

Rooted cuttings were distributed to nurserymen from the Atlantic Blueberry Company, 475 S. Chew Road, Hammononton, N. J. 08037, in the spring of 1976. Plants should be available to growers from nurseries in fall 1976 and spring 1977. Neither the Maine Agriculture Experiment Station nor the U. S. Department of Agriculture has plants for distribution.

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