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'Harcot' Apricot[1]

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'Harcot' is an attractive, early season, high quality apricot (*Prunus armeniaca* L.) with adequate cold hardiness and resistance to bacterial spot [*Xanthomonas pruni* (E.F.Sm.) Dows.], brown rot [*Monilinia fructicola* (Wint.) Honey], and perennial canker (*Leucostoma* spp.). It was introduced in 1977 to meet the need in Ontario for a better adapted, cold hardy and disease resistant cultivar for the fresh market.

Origin

'Harcot' resulted from the cross: [('Geneva' × 'Naramata') × 'Morden 604'] × (Phelps' × 'Perfection' = NJAI) made in 1963 by L. F. Hough and Catherine H. Bailey at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. It was selected at Harrow in 1968 from a progeny of 40 seedlings. The original tree was observed in fruiting trials from 1968 to 1972. It was propagated by the Western Ontario Fruit Testing Association and distributed for regional trials with growers and researchers in Canada and the U.S. from 1971 to 1974 under the designation HW401. It began fruiting in regional trials in 1974, and favorable reports on its performance have been obtained from Ontario, British Columbia and New York. 'Harcot' is also being tested in Western and Eastern Europe but information on its performance there is not yet available. In this report 'Harcot' is compared with 'Goldcot' and 'Veecot' (Table 1), the only other cultivars now recommended for limited planting in Southwestern Ontario, Canada. 'Harcot' exceeded Goldcot' and 'Veecot' in overall performance. It equaled or surpassed the performance of 'Goldcot' and 'Veecot' in 14 and 15 characters, respectively, of the 18 that were evaluated (Table 1).

Description

Trees of 'Harcot' are vigorous, spreading to upright and moderately productive. They are wood hardy and moderately bud hardy, and resistant but not immune to bacterial spot, brown rot, and peach canker. The flowers are white, conspicuous, and bloom midway between the early and late blooming cultivars. They have moderate tolerance to blossom frost. The leaves are large, ovate to cordate in shape with acuminate apices and crenulate margins. There are usually 3 or more large, globose glands on the petiole. The leaf closely resembles that previously illustrated for 'Haggith' (1).

The fruits ripen early about 8 days before 'Goldcot' and 10 days before 'Veecot'. Fruits are medium to large (Fig. 1) and vary in size from 4.4 to 5.1 cm in diam when properly thinned. They are brighter, larger, and more attractive than either 'Goldcot' or 'Veecot'. The suture and stem cavity are shallow and relatively inconspicuous. The skin is orange except for a moderate red blush on the sun side near the stem end. The flesh is usually free at the pit but may adhere slightly to the pit in some seasons. The flesh is orange, firm, sweet and juicy. The texture is smooth and fine grained and the flavor is very good. The dessert quality is superior to 'Goldcot' or 'Veecot'. The skin tends to discolor when processed as canned halves like 'Goldcot' and unlike 'Veecot' which remains bright and attractive. 'Harcot' has good color and flavor when processed as puree and may be suitable for the strained food industry. The fruits are resistant to bacterial spot and brown rot. In some seasons the skin has

Table 1. Average performance of 'Harcot' in relation to 'Goldcot' and 'Veecot' at Harrow, Ontario (1975-1977).

Characters evaluated	Rating scale (1 to 10)[z]		
	Harcot	Goldcot	Veecot
Tree type	8	8	7
Tree vigor	8	8	7
Production	6	8	7
Wood hardiness	8	9	6
Dormant flower bud hardiness	6	8	6
Blossom frost tolerance	6	6	6
Bloom time	6	6	6
Perennial canker resistance	8	8	6
Bacterial spot resistance	8	8	3
Brown rot resistance	8	8	6
Ripening uniformity	8	4	8
Fruit dropping	8	5	8
Fruit size	7	4	6
Fruit attractiveness	8	5	7
Flesh firmness	8	4	8
Flesh freeness	7	9	10
Dessert quality	9	5	7
Processing quality	6	5	8
Total unweighted score	133	118	122

[z]Ratings were subjective on a scale from 1 (most undesirable) to 10 (most desirable).

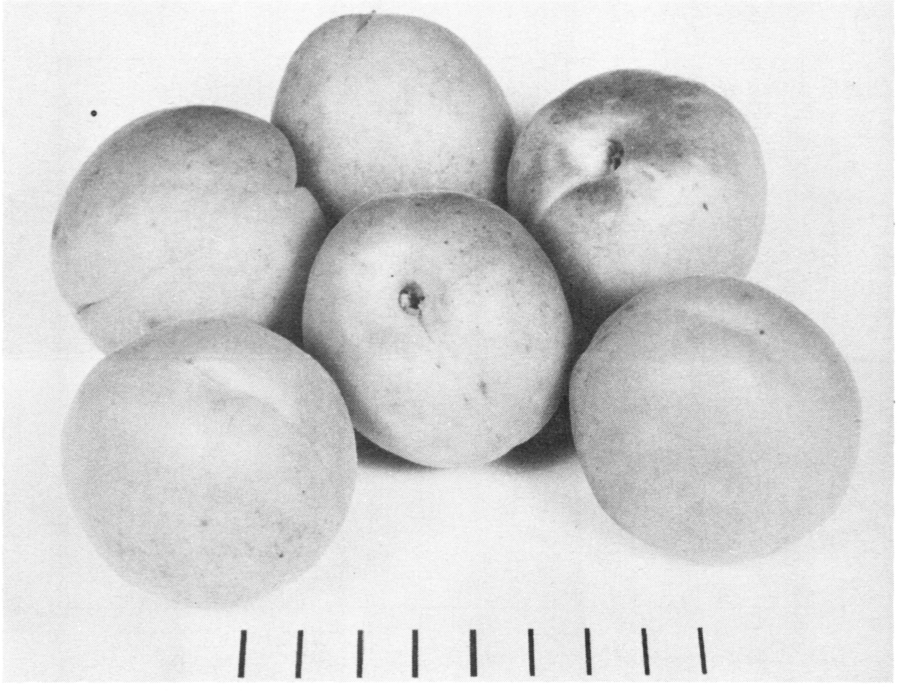

Fig. 1. Fruits of 'Harcot' apricot (scale in cm).

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a slight tendency to crack at the suture near the blossom end. The fruits ripen uniformly and do not drop readily even when ripe.

The pit is medium in size, tan in color and has a grainy surface. The shape is oblong, somewhat flattened, slightly winged along the dorsal suture and sparsely pitted along the ventral suture. The pit closely resembles those previously illustrated for 'Haggith' (1). The kernel is small to medium in size, sweet and edible.

Availability

Trees of 'Harcot' are available in Canada from the Western Ontario Fruit Testing Association and will be available from commercial nurseries in Canada and the U.S. in 1979. Budwood from virus-indexed trees is available from the Western Ontario Fruit Testing Association, Harrow, Ontario, N0R 1G0, Canada.

Literature Cited

1. Layne, R. E. C. and T. B. Harrison. 1975. 'Haggith' apricot: rootstock seed source. *HortScience* 10:428.

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'Milam' Peach[1]

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'Milam' peach (*Prunus persica* (L.) Batsch) has been released for public use to provide an alternative cultivar to 'Loring' especially in areas where 'Loring' is unadapted. Fruit of 'Milam' (Fig. 1) mature in about the same season at that of 'Loring' but 'Milam' is productive over a greater part of Texas than 'Loring'.

Origin

'Milam' was selected by J. B. Storey in 1957 from a progeny of seedlings derived from self-pollination of Fort Valley 5-56 ('Halehaven' self-pollinated) by A. H. Krezdorn. The selection was evaluated as A181-4 by H. H. Bowen, J. B. Storey, T. E. Denman, U. A. Randolph, and B. D. Reeder.

Description

The fruit is truncate, up to 7.5cm in diam with none to very slight protrusion of the apex. It has medium yellow color and 60 to 90% solid dark to mottled, light-red blush. Pubescence is medium. The suture is smooth with occasional clefting at the stem end. The endocarp averages 2.0 x 3.2 cm and is free from the flesh at maturity. Except for a moderate quantity of red at the cavity, the flesh is uniformly yellow. It is firm and has fine texture and moderately good flavor. Storage life is relatively long. Flower bud set is medium; blossoms are red and showy.

Performance and adaptation

'Milam' has had a good production record at 3 Texas locations (Table 1). Although spring frosts eliminated the crop on 'Milam' as well as on most other cultivars in some years at some locations. 'Milam' appears to be adapted in areas accumulating from 650 to 750 hr of temp below 7°C from Nov. 1 through Feb. 'Milam' is about equal to 'Redglobe' in bacterial spot resistance and should not be planted where this disease may be severe.

Availability

Trees may be obtained from Cumberland Valley Nursery, McMinnville, Tenn. 37110. Limited quantities of budwood may be obtained by requesting it from the authors.

Table 1. Observational performance of 'Milam' peach, at 3 locations in Texas.

	Performance rating[z]								
	Fruit								
Year	Size (mm)	Firmness	Shape	Appearnace	Flavor	Freestone	Bacterial spot resist.	Crop size	Date ripe[y]
				Stephenville					
1966	65	9	8	6	7	7	7	7	July 16
1967	65	9	7	8	9	10	7	10	June 30
1968[x]								0	
1969	70	9	9	7	9	–	5	10	July 30
1970	65	9	8	7	7	–	5	7	July 27
1971								0	
				Montague					
1967	65	8	9	8	7	10	7	6	July 12
1968[x]								0	
1969	60	8	9	9	7	10	8	8	Aug. 10
1970	65	8	9	9	7	10	8	8	July 23
1971	70	8	9	9	7	10	8	6	Aug. 1
				College Station					
1967	60	8	8	8	8	10	–	7	June 20
1968	65	8	8	7	6	10	–	5	July 1
1969	65	8	8	7	7	10	–	6	June 28
1970	60	8	8	7	8	10	–	7	July 3
1971[x]								0	

[z]A 10 rating indicates most desirable. Fruit size was estimated.

[y]About 1-1/2 weeks before Elberta.

[x]Data lacking due to frost. With few exceptions all other cultivars under these conditions produce little to no crop.

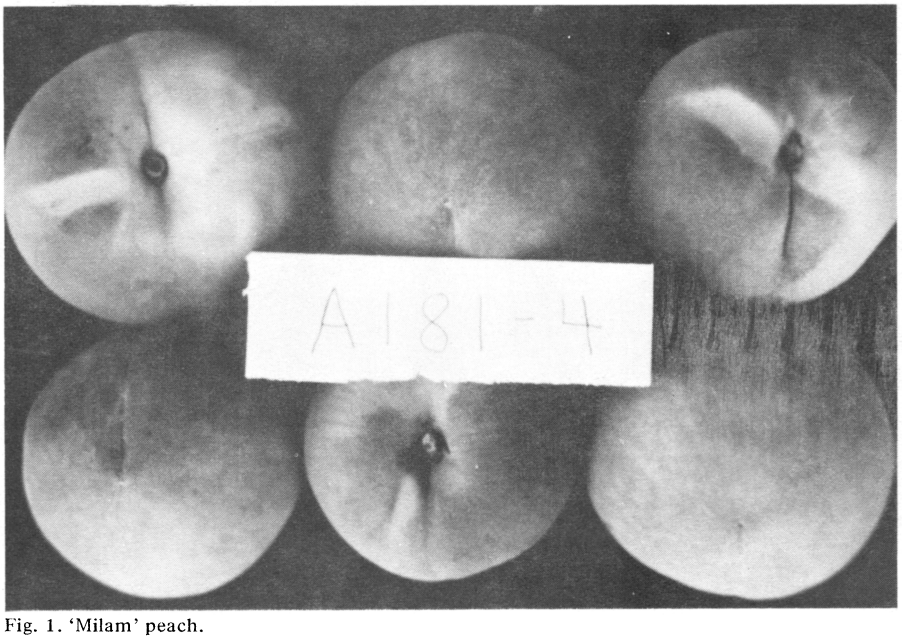

Fig. 1. 'Milam' peach.

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