

'Velvagio' Apricot¹

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'Velvagio' is a very attractive apricot (*Prunus armeniaca* L.) ripening in the last week of July with 'Goldcot'. It has moderate resistance to bacterial spot (*Xanthomonas pruni* (E. F. Smith) Dowson), brown rot (*Monilinia fructicola* (Wint.) Honey) and perennial canker (*Leucostoma* spp). It was introduced in 1978 as a later-ripening cultivar than 'Harcot', adapted to conditions of southern Ontario, Canada.

Origin

'Velvagio' resulted from a cross of 'Veecot' x 'Farmingdale' made in 1960. It was selected in 1968 from a progeny of 90 seedlings and was tested as 'V60091'. Since selection it has had 7 full and 2 light crops, which is well above average for apricots in the Niagara Peninsula. It has been tested in grower trials since 1971. Its adaptation to other regions is not known but it should be worthy of trial where 'Goldcot' and 'Veecot' can be grown.

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Description

Trees of 'Velvagio' are vigorous, spreading and productive. The flowers are white and bloom at the same time as those of 'Goldcot' and 'Veecot'. The fruit is freestone and ripens with 'Goldcot' but is larger, varying in size from 48 to 55 mm, and more attractive, with a

bright orange background and a light red blush. Heat-processed halves tend to be slightly soft, similar to processed 'Goldcot' but processed flavor is good. Dessert quality is fair to good. The fruit ripens uniformly. The flesh tends to tear slightly at the stem end when picked at full harvest maturity. The fruit does not drop readily and will withstand rains without splitting. Under favorable bloom conditions 'Velvagio' sets a very heavy crop and requires thinning to attain size.

Availability

'Velvagio' is being propagated by several Ontario nurseries. Information on propagation material may be obtained from the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario, Vineland Station, Ontario, Canada LOR 2EO.



Fig. 1. 'Velvagio' apricot (scale in cm).

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