

'Samish' Almond¹

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Additional index words. nut breeding, *Prunus amygdalus*, hybrid

'Samish' is a high-yielding, semi-hard-shelled, well-sealed, highly flavored cultivar of almond (*Prunus amygdalus* Batsch), with fairly uniform kernels.

Origin

'Samish' (Fig. 1) (named after R. M. Samish³) was derived from a cross between 'Marcona' and 'Greek' made in 1966 at the Division of Fruit Tree Breeding, Volcani Center, Bet Dagan. It was selected in 1970 as seedling Bet Dagan 3/49/66/4 and distributed in 1971 for test plantings as top grafts. The original seedling fruited for 6 consecutive years. Three harvests have been observed on the top-worked trees. Additional test trees established as budded nursery trees on bitter almond and 'Nemaguard' peach seedling rootstocks were planted in 1973 at two locations. Observations on their fruiting have been made for 5 years.

Description

Tree. Growth is very vigorous and the tree is well-branched, becoming large and wide during fruiting. Bears over 70% on spurs; flowering period is somewhat earlier than 'Ne Plus Ultra' and a little later than 'Um el Fahm' (also known as 59/4). It is cross-compatible with both of these cultivars and probably also with a sibling selected by us (Bet Dagan 66/15). Tree is well-adapted to mechanical harvesting, makes an excellent union with 'Nemaguard' peach and a very satisfactory union with bitter almond.

Nut. Shell is semi-hard and completely sealed, light-colored and smooth. Rate of infection by the carob moth, *Ectomyelois ceratoniae*, is very low. Kernel is fairly uniform, smooth, elongated, somewhat rounded. Seed coat is light-colored, and percentage of double seeds varies (average 9%). Kernel is highly flavored, sweet; average in-shell weight 2.8 g, kernel 1.1 g, shell-out 41%; average seed

dimensions (kernel size decreases noticeably with very high yield): 20 mm length, 13 mm width, 9 mm thickness. Adapted for in-shell,

kernel and confectionary trade.

Yield. Kernel yields per tree appear very good, so far exceeding 'Ne Plus Ultra' and about equal to 'Um el Fahm' (standard cultivars grown in Israel).

Availability

Budwood will be available by 1984 from the Division of Fruit Tree Breeding, ARO, The Volcani Center, Bet Dagan. An Israeli patent is pending.

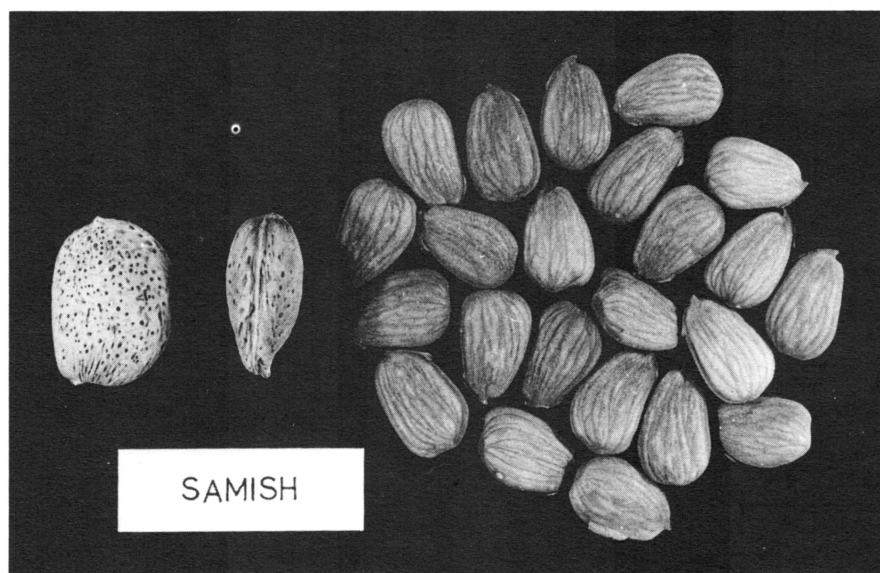


Fig. 1. Nuts and kernels of 'Samish' almond.

HortScience 17(2):271-272. 1982.

'Sentry' Peach¹

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Additional index words. fruit breeding, *Prunus persica*, Bacterial spot, *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *pruni*, *Xanthomonas pruni*

'Sentry' peach (*Prunus persica* (L.) Batsch) was released August, 1980, because of its productiveness, large fruit size for its early season of maturity, attractive exterior and interior color, and resistance to bacterial spot disease.

Origin

'Sentry,' tested as Beltsville 64302, was selected in 1966 by Harold W. Fogle from a progeny of 8 seedlings of 'Loring' x 'Sentinel' hybridized in 1963.

Description

Trees of 'Sentry' are vigorous and productive. Fruit average 6.0 to 6.4 cm (2³/₈ to 2¹/₂ inches) in diameter and are larger than those of cultivars with comparable crop and ripening season (Fig. 1). The average date of ripening is July 12 at Beltsville, Md. This

¹Received for publication Nov. 4, 1981.

Contribution No. 292-E, 1981 series, from the Agricultural Research Organization, The Volcani Center, Bet Dagan, Israel.

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²Deceased May 15, 1981.

³Prof. Samish was Head of Division of Pomology, Volcani Center, from 1946 to 1972 and Professor of Horticulture at the Faculty of Agriculture, who died Dec. 24, 1975.

¹Received for publication Sept. 2, 1981.

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²Research Horticulturists.