

Earliril and Blenril Apricots

The Washington Agricultural Station and the United States Department of Agriculture jointly released two new apricot varieties in July of this year. These two varieties, Earliril and Blenril, both of which originated at the Irrigation Experiment Station at Prosser, Washington, are described below.

Earliril

Earliril is a seedling selection an open-pollinated tree of the variety Ridland, capable of withstanding winter temperatures of minus 19° F. It resembles Ridland in appearance, and is two weeks earlier than Moorpark. Fruit is medium in size, with its yellow-orange ground color more than half covered with an attractive red blush. Earliril is freestone, and its flesh is firm, orange-yellow, fine-textured, good in flavor, but shows a tendency to brown around the pit. The canned product is superior to other early varieties in texture and firmness, but the skin becomes a dull brown due to the heavy blush.

The tree of Earliril is upright-spreading, vigorous and productive. It requires cross-pollination, and is free of viruses.

Blenril

Blenril is a hardy selection of Blenheim x Riland, and ripens with Riland. Fruit resembles Blenheim, and is medium in size. It is attractively blushed like Earliril, and has firm yellow-orange flesh which is excellent in quality. Blenril is freestone and makes a superior canned product in spite of the brown color that develops in the skin.

The tree of Blenril is productive and vigorous. It is self-fertile and is a satisfactory pollinator for Earliril, and appears to be virus-free.

Information on sources of budwood of Earliril and Blenril may be obtained by writing to H. W. Fogle, Irrigation Experiment Station, Prosser, Washington.



Varieties for the Amateur

It might be well for us to take note of some observations made by the British Horticulturist P. Morton Shand in a talk to the Royal Horticultural Society in 1948. They are as follows: "But unfortunately the sort of apples which the horticultural stations have so far been called upon to raise are, in the main, not varieties for what the eighteenth century called 'the enlightened amateur', but such as will interest the large-scale commercial grower. His needs are very different, being dominated by such requirements as heavy cropping at particular seasons, maximum resistance to pests and diseases, and the capacity to stand up to rough handling in transport. Quality has to be prepared to take a back seat and be squeezed in where it can, and, sometimes only appears in the guise of one of those dark horses that 'also ran'. Though it is not altogether fair to blame the commercial growers for this there is certainly no need for private growers to follow suit by planting commercial kinds, though it must be frankly recognized that the dwindling choice of others now offered by nurserymen has impelled many of them to do so."



J. D. Winter, Secretary of the Minnesota Fruit Growers Association tells us that the apple variety Minjon is similar in appearance to Jonathan, and is harvested with McIntosh. It is very good for pies, baking, sauce and freezing, but is a little tart for eating fresh.