

Early Golden Plum*

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Early Golden is the only "Japanese" plum variety on the increase in Ontario plantings. It is probably not known to many readers of F.V. & H.D.

There were 17,520 trees in 1956 and 22,295 trees in 1961. These were respectively 20 and 28 per cent of all Japanese plums grown in Ontario.

The variety is a chance seedling and was discovered near Fonthill, Ontario. It was introduced by Wellington and Davidson Nursery—now Fonthill Nurseries.

While it is treated commercially as a Japanese variety, there is a possibility that Early Golden may be the result of a chance crossing between Myrobalan and a Japanese variety, possibly Shiro or Burbank. Seedlings of Early Golden in the nursery row have closely resembled Myrobalan grown side by side with them. Early Golden blooms very early and sets well with pollen of Myrobalan.

The tree is vigorous and productive under a wide variety of conditions. Shiro and Methley are the varieties with the greatest overlap in period of bloom, but are not entirely satisfactory as pollinizers.

The fruit is below medium in size, and firm. It has very good quality and ships well. It is an attractive golden color in both flesh and skin, and when allowed to ripen on the tree usually develops a generous red blush. The flesh is fine and smooth in texture. Early Golden ripens at Vineland 10 days or 2 weeks before Shiro. Unfortunately, in addition to some prob-

lems in pollination that have not been entirely solved, Early Golden has a strong tendency towards biennial bearing. Heavy thinning is thus a frequent requirement. Fruit size is about two thirds that of Shiro or Methley grown under similar conditions. It is quite round in shape, and the pit is small and free.

The variety is popular in Ontario because of its quality and earliness, and sells well on local markets in competition with imported Duarte.

Early Golden has been grown at the Horticultural Experiment Station, Vineland Station, since 1946. It should not be confused with Stark's Early Gold, a synonym of Shiro, or with the Early Golden described by Hedrick, which is a domestica type. Early Golden fruit is far superior to that of any of the known Myrobalan selections which have been tested pomologically here.

Attractive European Nursery Catalogs

Two most attractive and well designed nursery catalogs were published in 1963 in Europe. One was put out by the Marcel Darnaud Nursery, located at Vion (Ardeche) in the Rhone Valley of France; the other, by the Ansaloni Nursery, near Balogna, Italy. Both nurseries offer many of newest American originated cultivars of peach and red sports of apple, in addition to their own local cultivars.

—G. M. Kessler

*See front cover.