

# Apricot Breeding in Poland

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Although southern Poland supports a very limited production of apricots, there has been sufficient interest to develop hardier types. The present active breeding program was started by K. Somorowski in 1952 who planted 1500 seeds of western varieties. This resulted in a population of 1200, one-half of which were small-fruited, typical of the wild type, where as the others approached commercial size. Only 30 percent survived the severe winter of 1955-56. By the fourth year, only 6 percent of this group survived, but bore no fruit. Final selection resulted in 18 seedlings that were rather hardy and bore large fruit. After the 1962-63 winter, only 3 remained, the best of which was killed with herbicides.

These observations indicated that satisfactory hardiness could not be found in the western apricots. Other data indicated that this hardiness would not be found in the Caucausian types either, and, therefore, attention was directed at the Southeast Asia types. One type, known as Zarzar, grows half-wild, and is quite hardy. Since it will inter-cross with the western varieties, a trip was made to this area, and seed collected from apricots growing in a shelter belt around a *Juglans regia* planting. Extensive winter injury was found on the walnuts, but all apricots were free from injury. Seed was collected and planted at Skierniewice. When they reached bearing age, three selections which bore large fruit and are known only under the numbers IX-NS-5, IX-NS-6, and IX-NS-7. The first of these bears fruit approaching the size of western varieties.

Several excellent seedlings, some of which assuredly will be named and released, have resulted from crosses involving these clones, and western varieties including Luizet, Moorpark, and Wellington. One of these, presently known as VII-16, is considered to be best. This clone has large fruit, and resists bacterial spot and cracking. Although the blossoms when open, are quite susceptible to frost, the trees have a long blossoming period of two weeks. This trait generally assures a crop in most years.

This work was supported by a PL 480 grant FG-Po-127.

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## Peach Varieties for Tennessee

D. B. Williams reports (in Tennessee Horticulture) that the University of Tennessee is recommending the following peach varieties for that state. The earliest varieties are listed first, and each variety is the first choice for its season: Cardinal, Dixired, Early Sunhaven, Late Sunhaven, Redhaven, Ranger, Triogem, Sunhigh, Halehaven, Loring, Georgia Belle, Redskin, Shippers Late Red and Lizzie. Dixired is the only white-fleshed peach in the recommended list.

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Stanley Johnston, Superintendent of the South Haven Exp. Station in Michigan, has written as follows: "We have tried the Moongold and Sun-gold apricots here in two different plantings. They were unproductive, and the trees short-lived. We cannot recommend them for planting in Michigan."

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