

SARDI – DUAL PURPOSE APRICOT VARIETY

Grower Information Guide

RiverCot 1

(Syn 36443)

South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI)

'RiverCot 1' was developed at SARDI's Loxton Research Centre (LRC) in the Riverland of South Australia. A beautifully flavoured, very sweet, well balanced and juicy apricot, it is firm and robust with a precocious, heavy cropping habit. This variety is considered an early dual purpose variety suitable for both fresh market and drying.

All data presented in this guide refers to trees grown at the Loxton Research Centre (LRC) on Myrobalan H29C plum rootstock, unless specifically stated. Performance on other rootstocks is untested.



Fresh fruit of RiverCot 1 on tree November 2016



Fresh fruit of RiverCot 1 on young trees November 2017

The purpose of this Grower Information Guide is to provide information to help growers make an informed decision on the planting of this apricot variety.

RiverCot 1 is a protected variety. A signed non-propagation agreement is required before tree delivery. Trees are available for commercial planting from winter 2018.

Timing of blossom:	Early season (9 Sept)
Pollination:	Self-fertile.
Cropping:	Heavy, precocious & consistent. Thinning can be required.
Ripening period:	Early. 24 November (Story, 14 Dec; Earlicot, 18 Nov; Moorpark, 29 Dec)
Shape:	Squat with compressed cheeks.
Fresh fruit size:	Large (52mm av., 55mm max)
Skin:	Pastel orange sometimes with speckled pinkish blush.
Flesh:	Orange with a pale margin around the stone cavity.
Eating quality:	Excellent.
Flavour:	Excellent and balanced.
Stone:	Large and free.
Fruit firmness:	Firm at maturity.
TSS level:	High (20 Brix). Suitable for drying.
Cracking:	Possibly susceptible.



Fresh fruit of tree ripe RiverCot 1.

Dry ratio:	Excellent (5.5:1).
Dried fruit size:	Large.
Dried quality:	Very good.
Dried fruit colour:	Bright orange.
Dried fruit storage:	6-12 months at 25°C and 65%RH.

Table 1 History of ‘RiverCot 1’ trees on Myrobalan H29C plum rootstock in secondary evaluation at the Loxton Research Centre.

TREE AGE	HARVEST DATE	CROP	FRUIT SIZE (mm)	FRUIT SIZE (g)	TSS (°Brix)
2	6/12/16	Heavy	50	62	18
3	24/11/17	Heavy	48	56	20



Dried halves of RiverCot 1 2016

The Tree: RiverCot 1 is a vigorous, moderately spreading, spur bearing tree. It benefits from an increase in the number of leaders (5-6) to better fill space, spread vigour and control extension when grown in “free standing V” type systems. It appears well suited to pedestrian orchards planted at 4.5m by 2.5m spacing. While the frame of the tree is relatively upright, extension growth behind the terminal bud is often weeping giving the tree an unruly appearance, although it is quite easy to train and build fruiting structure. Trees should be kept open to help condition fruit and prevent pale shoulders.

In the consumer sensory panel results shown adjacent, fresh apricot Overall Eating Experience (OEE) was very closely correlated with scores for flavour.

Table 2. History of RiverCot 1 results in consumer sensory panels for fresh apricot Overall Eating Experience (OEE)

HARVEST DATE	CROP	STORAGE (days)	OEE (X/150)	TSS (Brix)	FIRM (g/mm ²)
‘RiverCot 1’					
17/11/15	H	27	78	15.3	1.0
7/12/16	VH	1	100	17.6	2.1
27/11/17	H	8	104	16.8	1.4
‘Earlicot’					
13/11/15	H	31	46	12.2	2.2
28/11/16	LM	1	64	13.5	3.3
28/11/16	LM	9	52	13.2	3.2
10/11/17	MH	9	56	11.3	2.6

The Fruit: RiverCot 1 is a superior eating experience apricot, this can be seen in the fresh apricot OEE scores shown above for panels across 3 years, compared to ‘Earlicot’. The apricot itself is juicy and well balanced. The 2015/16 results show that while firm off the tree this apricot does soften in storage and should be used in close markets where long storage times are not required. This may be improved by cultural practices that support improved fruit firmness and by controlling crop load. Cropping can easily become excessive with this variety. Naturally elevated sugar levels enhance the consumer experience at higher cropping levels and less advanced maturities. The fruit has a distinct squat shape and the flavour a slight fruity complexity, being particularly good above 16 brix. The early timing, precocious, heavy cropping habit make the 5.5:1 drying ratio quiet reasonable. A dried 2016 sample tested in a consumer sensory panel in 2017 rated 86 & 105 for eating experience and appearance respectively, compared to Moorpark, 89 & 96. This suggests an eating experience on par with Moorpark but with improved visual quality.

This is an excellent apricot for both fresh market and drying uses.



RiverCot 1 sensory panel fresh fruit 2017/18

Disclaimer

This variety is unproven in commercial production. Testing has not been completed over a range of regions, rootstocks and management conditions. Growers wishing to plant ‘37890’ should exercise appropriate caution.

This variety will be supplied with no guarantee of any kind and the purchasers accept all risks in connection with their possession or use of the variety. The variety is supplied without warranty, express or implied, of fitness for any particular purpose.

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