

SARDI – DUAL PURPOSE APRICOT VARIETY

Grower Information Guide

RiverCot 9

(Syn 24680)

South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI)

'RiverCot 9' was developed at SARDI's Loxton Research Centre (LRC) in the Riverland of South Australia. A well flavoured, neat, attractive, sweet apricot, it is very firm and robust with a good consistent cropping habit. This variety is considered a mid to late season 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 9 trees in December 2017



Pruned scaffold of RiverCot 9 in July 2018

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 9 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:	Mid-season (11 Sept).
Pollination:	Self-fertile.
Cropping:	Good & consistent. Some thinning can be required.
Ripening period:	Mid to late season. 26 December (Story, 14 Dec; Earlicot, 18 Nov; Moorpark, 29 Dec).
Shape:	Roundish with compressed cheeks.
Fresh fruit size:	Medium (46mm av., 52mm max).
Skin:	Orange with slight pinkish blush.
Flesh:	Orange with a pale margin around the stone cavity.
Eating quality:	Very good.
Flavour:	Very good.
Stone:	Large and slightly adherent.
Fruit firmness:	Very firm at maturity.
TSS level:	High (19 Brix). Suitable for drying.
Cracking:	Possibly tolerant.



Fresh fruit of RiverCot 9.

Dry ratio:	Excellent (4.2:1).
Dried fruit size:	Large.
Dried quality:	Excellent.
Dried fruit colour:	Deep orange.
Dried fruit storage:	6-12 months at 25°C and 65%RH.

Table 1 History of 'RiverCot 9' 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)
3	21/12/14	Moderate	46	41	20.5
4	26/12/15	Heavy	45	41	22
5	28/12/16	Moderate Heavy	48	52	17
6	29/12/17	Heavy	45	44	18



Dried halves of RiverCot 9 2015/16

The Tree: RiverCot 9 is a vigorous, upright, slightly spreading spur bearing tree. It benefits from an increase in the number of leaders (6-8) 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. This line should be summer pruned as a young tree to build secondary fruiting structures along the main leaders. Keeping trees open promotes blush, conditions fruit and prevents green shoulders.

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 'RiverCot 9' 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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Table 2. History of RiverCot 9 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 9'					
26/12/17	VH	13	94	17	1.5
'Earlicot'					
10/11/17	MH	9	56	11.3	2.6

The Fruit: In the consumer sensory panel results shown above, fresh apricot Overall Eating Experience (OEE) was very closely correlated with scores for flavour. RiverCot 9 is a superior eating experience apricot as demonstrated by the fresh apricot OEE score of 94 obtained in 2017/18, compared to 'Earlicot'. This is a very good result given fruit had been stored for 13 days and was harvested from very heavily cropped trees. Fruit was small but attractive and also garnered 35% first preferences from the panel participants. The apricot itself is usually medium sized, very firm and well flavoured (classic apricot flavour), it is very neat and attractive looking with a slight pinkish blush. The flesh has a nice orange colour and good texture. If over-ripe it will soften and show bruising. Naturally elevated sugar levels enhance the consumer experience at higher cropping levels and less advanced maturities. Stone is large and can be slightly adherent along the flutes, the cavity is medium and it seems quite resistant to stone burn. Dried fruit has been visually superior to Moorpark in our experience most seasons. Grower experience to date is limited but this line was reported to resist damage from repeated rain events at Waikerie in 2016/17 and produced good quantities of excellent quality dried fruit. If managed to maintain size and firmness this line makes a good case as a later line for both fresh market and dried uses.



RiverCot 9 sensory panel fresh fruit 2017/18