

# SARDI – DRYING APRICOT VARIETY

## Grower Information Guide

### RiverCot 5

(Syn 24992)

*South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI)*

'RiverCot 5' was developed at SARDI's Loxton Research Centre (LRC) in the Riverland of South Australia. An excellent high production drying apricot, it produces at both ends, reliable high fresh tonnage's and a high quality dried product with low dry ratios. Clean, highly sugared and firm with good size, it is robust with a precocious, very heavy cropping habit. This variety is only suitable for drying as its flesh texture is somewhat pasty. If you are a dried fruit producer this variety should be at the top of your list to investigate.

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 5 on young trees December 2017*



*Bloom of RiverCot 5 September 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 5 is a protected variety. A signed non-propagation agreement is required before tree delivery. Trees are available for commercial planting from winter 2018.

<b>Timing of blossom:</b>	Early season (5 Sept).
<b>Pollination:</b>	Self-fertile.
<b>Cropping:</b>	Very high, precocious & consistent.
<b>Ripening period:</b>	Early. 6 December (Story, 14 Dec; Moorpark, 29 Dec).
<b>Shape:</b>	Roundish with compressed cheeks.
<b>Fresh fruit size:</b>	Large (49mm av., 54mm max).
<b>Skin:</b>	Pastel pale orange.
<b>Flesh:</b>	Orange.
<b>Eating quality:</b>	Poor, pasty texture.
<b>Flavour:</b>	Very good.
<b>Stone:</b>	Large and very free.
<b>Fruit firmness:</b>	Firm at maturity.
<b>TSS level:</b>	Very high (23 Brix). Excellent for drying.
<b>Cracking:</b>	Possibly tolerant.



*Fresh fruit of tree ripe RiverCot 5.*

<b>Dry ratio:</b>	Excellent (4.4:1).
<b>Dried fruit size:</b>	Large.
<b>Dried quality:</b>	Very good.
<b>Dried fruit colour:</b>	Orange.
<b>Dried fruit storage:</b>	6-12 months at 25°C and 65%RH.

**Table 1** History of 'RiverCot 5' 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	5/12/12	Moderate Heavy	46	48	23.5
3	29/11/13	Moderate Heavy	54	67	26.5
4	3/12/14	Heavy	51	49	21.5
5	4/12/15	Heavy	46	51	23.5
6	16/12/16	Very Heavy	50	68	21
7	8/12/17	Very Heavy	48	59	22



*Dried halves of RiverCot 5 2017*

**The Tree:** RiverCot 5 is a vigorous, spreading, spur bearing tree. It benefits from an increase in the number of leaders (6-7) 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. Keep trees open to prevent green shoulders and condition fruit fruit. Summer pruning as a young tree will improve subsequent fruiting structures within the tree and reduce shading preventing a drop in fruit quality. Self-fertile with strong flowers and overall bloom it is capable of very large crops. Biennial bearing has not been observed to date but it may be advisable to practice some crop moderation on very heavy crops.

#### 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 5' 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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**The Fruit:** RiverCot 5 is a superior high cropping drying apricot that not only produces high fruit volumes it will also impart high TSS levels to that crop. The fresh apricot is firm, sweet and good tasting but its texture is poor and pasty. This is not an issue if used for drying. The skin is pastel, plain, and slightly pale but clean and quite tolerant to marking and rain damage despite high fruit sugar levels. It has shown consistent excellent dry ratios in the mid to low 4's and seems quite forgiving on maturity. Dried fruit looks visibly superior to Moorpark approximately 50% of the 11 times it has been dried and on par the remainder. A 2017 dried sample tested in a consumer panel rated 102 & 103 for eating experience and appearance respectively, compared to Moorpark's 89 & 96, supporting previous visual quality assessments. Evidence suggest this line is vastly superior to both Story and Moorpark in its production potential and should be a must for dried fruit producers to investigate.

This is an outstanding apricot for dried apricot production