



APRICOT

Introduction

- **An attractive, delicious and highly nutritive fruit.**
- **Ranks 2nd next to plums among the stone fruits in India in area, production and popularity.**
- **Asia and Europe are the largest producer.**

Origin & Distribution

- Originated in **Western China**.
- **States:** J & K, H.P., Uttrakhand. Also grown to a limited extent in North eastern hills.
- In India , plum occupies an area of **2,530ha** with a production of **11,090 tonnes**.
- In H.P., area under plum is **3,175 ha** and production is **2,768 MT**.

Botany

- Botanical Name: *Prunus armeniaca*

Family: Rosaceae

Recommended Cultivars

- **High hills**

Early	Mid	Late
Kaisha, Nugget	Suffaida, Charmagaz	-

Mid hills

New Castle, Early Shipley	Shakarpara	-
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Dry Temperate Zone:

Drying type varieties like Charmagaz, Suffaida, Shakarpara and Kaisha.

Climate

- **Generally grown in low and mid hills of the state (1000-1600 m a.m.s.l).**
- **Chilling requirement is 700-1200 chilling hours.**
- **Areas having moderate summer temperature are good.**
- **Thrives satisfactorily under low atmospheric humidity.**
- **Annual rainfall of about 100 cm is sufficient.**
- **Select North eastern aspect.**
- **Excessive cold and hails are not desirable during flowering to fruiting.**

Soil

- **Deep, fertile, well drained loamy soils are considered best.**
- **In Kinnaur region of the state where apricots grow in large stands, the soils are sandy, well drained but not very fertile.**

Rootstocks

- **Wild apricot seedling rootstocks.**
- **Wild peach for sandy and dry conditions or**
- **Plum for heavy soils and wet conditions.**

Propagation Method

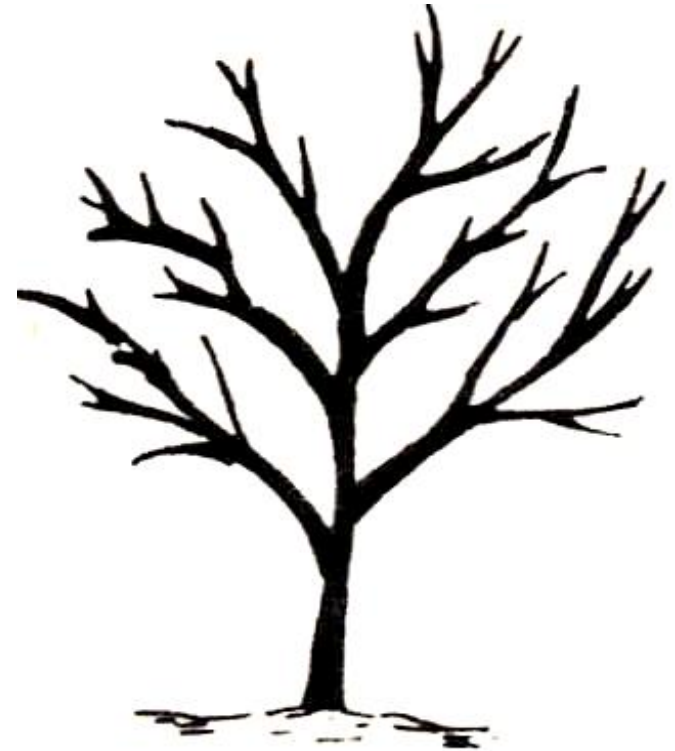
- **Tongue grafting: January– February**
- **Cleft grafting : January– February (Top working method)**
- **T- budding : May- June**

Planting

- **Distance** : 6x6m
- **Time** : December – February. Early planting is desirable

Training and Pruning

- **Open Center or Modified Central Leader System of training.**
- **In New Castle apricot, 25-30% thinning of shoots + 1/3 heading back of shoots should be done.**



Modified Central Leader

Orchard Soil Management

- Atrazine or Diuron @ 4.0 kg/ha is effective in controlling weeds for 4-5 months in plum orchards.
- Oxyfluorfen @ 0.5 kg/ha or Diuron @ 2.0 kg/ha is effective in plum nurseries.
- The herbicides should be applied in the month of April as pre-emergence to weeds.
- For post-emergence, application of gramoxone @ 2 L/ha or glyphosate @ 800 ml/ha (700 L water is sufficient for one hectare) is used in orchards.
- To conserve soil moisture, mulching of dry grass or hay 10-15 cm in thickness in the tree basin should be done.
- In orchards, where herbicides and mulching are used, 20 to 50 per cent economy in the use of nitrogen can be made and soil application of N, therefore, should be adjusted accordingly.

Manure and fertilizers

Age of tree (years)	FYM (kg)	CAN (g)	N (g)	SP (g)	P ₂ O ₅ (g)	MOP (g)	K ₂ O (g)
I	10	280	70	220	35	165	100
2	15	560	140	440	70	335	200
3	20	840	210	660	105	500	300
4	25	1120	280	880	140	670	400
5	30	1400	350	1100	175	835	500
6	35	1680	420	1320	210	1000	600
7 & above	40	2000	500	1560	250	1170	700

Method of fertilizer application

- Apply FYM during Dec.- Jan. along with P and K
- Apply half N in spring before flowering and remaining half N one month later, if irrigation facilities are available.
- Under rainfed conditions, N fertilizer should be applied in one lot about 15 days before bud break.
- Apply $\frac{4}{5}$ N through soil and $\frac{1}{5}$ through foliage to get better response.
- Spray 0.1 % (1g/1 L water) boric acid before flowering to check the incidence of blossom blast or after petal fall is given to overcome boron deficiency.

Pollination

All cultivars are self- fruitful and hence can be planted in solid blocks to obtain commercial crops.

Irrigation

- **2-3 irrigations in summers are beneficial.**

Harvesting & Yield

- Season is May to July.
- New Castle cultivar requires 84 ± 4 days from full bloom to maturity.
- For marketing of fresh fruits, harvest the fruit when the colour changes from green to yellow and loose flesh firmness slightly depending upon the cultivar.
- For freezing, canning and drying, harvest fully ripe fruits.
- All fruits do not ripe at same time so many pickings are required.
- Handle the fruits carefully to avoid cuts and bruises.
- **Yield:** **50-80 kg per tree.**

Grading and Packing

Grade	Fruit size(mm)
Special	42 and above
Grade I	36-42
Grade II	Below 36

Extra padding may be given for tight packing.

Storage

- **Apricots can be stored for 1-2 weeks at a temperature of 0°C with 85-90% relative humidity**