

SARDI – DUAL PURPOSE APRICOT VARIETY

Grower Information Guide

RiverCot 2

(Syn 34769)

South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI)

'RiverCot 2' was developed at SARDI's Loxton Research Centre (LRC) in the Riverland of South Australia. A great flavoured, sweet apricot with fine slippery flesh texture. It is super firm and robust, often slightly pale and plain to look at but very functional, with a precocious, heavy cropping habit. This variety is considered an early dual purpose apricot producing a quality dried product and is also suitable for the fresh market. It has a non-acidic profile and also cans very well.

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.



RiverCot 2 on tree & bloom 2017



RiverCot 2 November 2016

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 2 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 (8 Sept).
Pollination:	Self-fertile.
Cropping:	Heavy, precocious & consistent. Thinning can be required.
Ripening period:	Early. 1 December (Story, 14 Dec; Earlicot, 18 Nov; Moorpark, 29 Dec).
Shape:	Roundish with compressed cheeks.
Fresh fruit size:	Large (52mm av., 57mm max).
Skin:	Pale orange with blotchy pinkish blush.
Flesh:	Orange.
Eating quality:	Excellent.
Flavour:	Very good. Low acidity, balanced.
Stone:	Large and very free.
Fruit firmness:	Very firm at maturity.
TSS level:	High (17 Brix). Suitable for drying.
Cracking:	Resistant.



Fresh fruit of RiverCot 2.

Dry ratio:	Very Good (4.9:1).
Dried fruit size:	Large.
Dried quality:	Good.
Dried fruit colour:	Orange.
Dried fruit storage:	6-12 months at 25°C and 65%RH.

Table 1 History of 'RiverCot 2' 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	26/11/14	Light	51	54	16.5
3	27/11/15	Moderate Heavy	53	74	17.5
4	7/12/16	Heavy	54	89	16
5	30/11/17	Heavy	49	59	16.5



Dried halves of RiverCot 2 2016

The Tree: RiverCot 2 is a vigorous, upright, 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. A very easy tree to setup and maintain. It blooms heavily with strong flowers, producing consistent heavy crops. Keep trees open to prevent green shoulders, maximise quality and condition fruit and floral buds.

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

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 2' 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.

For further information please contact:

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Table 2. History of RiverCot 2 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 2'					
7/12/16	MH	7	96	18.4	2.4
27/11/17	MH	8	94	17.3	2.7
'Earlicot'					
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 2 is a superior eating experience apricot, this can be seen in the fresh apricot OEE scores shown above for panels across 2 years, compared to 'Earlicot'. The apricot itself is very firm, almost rubbery with a pleasant, balanced, low acid, mild fruity flavour profile. Naturally elevated sugar levels enhance the consumer experience at higher cropping levels and less advanced maturities. The skin is plain, pale orange often with blotchy pinkish blush that can mark and develop some leatheriness after rain. Flesh colour is a deeper orange and texture is fine with a slippery mouth feel. Trees carry large regular crops of very firm well sized fruit, so the average TSS at 17 brix is quite good. The fruit is well coloured internally, very free stoned, quite resistant to rain cracking and stone burn. The dried fruit it produces is of good visual quality and dry ratio averaging 4.9. A 2016 dried sample rated 108 & 115 for eating experience and appearance respectively in consumer panels, compared to Moorpark's, 89 & 96. Consumers appear to prefer it for its colour, higher sweetness and low sourness over Moorpark. This apricot has also been test canned several times with good results.

This is a very good all-purpose apricot for multiple uses.



RiverCot 2 sensory panel fresh fruit 2017/18