



FACT SHEET

Autumn Treat

Breeder	Zaiger's Inc. Genetics
Selection Number	260 LK 97
Fruit Kind	Inter-specific Plum
Variety Owner South Africa	Zaiger SA
Managing Agent	Custom Plum Company
Date of Entry South Africa	2006
PBR	Registered
Ha Royalty Structure	See below
Tree Royalty Structure	\$1/tree on planting

Production Characteristics

Harvest date warm areas	Week 12 - Week 14
Harvest date colder areas	Week 13 - Week 15
Control Variety	None

Sizing	AA, AAA+
Skin Colour:	Red/Maroon
Flesh Colour:	Yellow
Fruit Shape:	Slightly Ovate
Texture:	Crisp
Storage ability:	Good

Tree Characteristics

Chilling Requirement	High 800-1000 Richardson
Growth Habit	Semi-upright
Vigour	Medium Vigour
Flowering date	Full Bloom Week 40- Week 42 in warm areas
Bears fruit on	Two-year-old wood and spurs
Other	

Pollination

Bee hive requirement	15 Beehives per ha
Flowering date: 10%	10% Flowering in warm areas - Week 38 10% Flowering in colder areas - Week 40
Pollinator 1	Laetitia - Early Flowers - Compatibility - 50%
Pollinator 2	Polaris - Early Flowers - Compatibility - 50%
Pollinator 5	Bella Royal - Mid Flowers - Compatibility - 50%
Pollinator 3	Songold - Mid to Late Flowers - Compatibility 100%
Pollinator 4	Ruby Star - Mid to Late Flowers - Compatibility - 50%
Pollinator 6	Crimson Kat - Mid to late Flowers - Compatibility - 100%
% Pollination required	30%

The cultivar has a very high chilling requirement in combination with spurs that can have between 20-40 flower buds on them, makes this cultivar suited for the areas that have consistent high chilling units yearly. The cultivar produces a high number of flower buds yearly and because it is very late bearing, reserve status becomes more important than just the cold units. High number of spurs and flower buds together with inter-flowering competition is also something that can contribute to delayed bloom if the reserves status was not optimal.

Pollination like with any cultivar is one of the most important determining factors in achieving consistently high yields. Every area is unique with its own microclimate and cold units, that is why it is important to choose the right pollinators for your area as the flowering periods may differ. We have ever-changing weather patterns so that is why it is important to use 3-4 different pollinators as it spreads the risk during the flowering period. A stretched out flowering period with a high number of beehives is important for consistently high yields.

Other remarks: The reserve status for cultivars like Autumn Treat, which is harvested late in the season, becomes extremely important for the following seasons flowering period and potential fruit set as these cultivars have a much shorter reserve building period than mid-season cultivars. Post-harvest fertilizer should not be applied directly after harvest as the trees can start growing again resulting in the use of reserves rather than building reserves. Autumn pruning should be done directly after harvest by removing all the unnecessary spurs and shoots so that the reserves building is optimal. Early natural fruit drop has been experienced followed by a very light natural fruit once the fruit are bigger. There is no standard thinning required but being a big sized fruit that sets in bunches, a light thinning is required by creating space between the fruit to allow for enlargement. All the bunches should be thinned to 2-3 fruit per bunch to avoid any unnecessary fruit loss. Trees can easily handle high yields and still produce the optimum fruit size of AA but if there is a lighter fruit set, the water and fertigation management needs to be adapted as the trees can produce AAAA+ sized fruit. Summer pruning is needed to ensure regrowth otherwise sunburn can become a problem. The cultivar is prone to Xanthomonas on the leaves, that at a later stage moves over to the fruit, so a preventative spray program is recommended, especially in high rainfall areas that gets late rain and dew.

Production: Very good, but bearing units needs to be renewed 25% per annum. Being big sized fruit, fertilizer application should be closely monitored so that it aligns with the fruit growth pattern to prevent split pit.

Hectare Royalty Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4 onwards for life of orchard
\$0	\$0	\$750/ha	\$950/ha