



THE CUSTOM
plum
COMPANY



FACT SHEET

Midnight Gold

Breeder	Zaiger's Inc. Genetics
Selection Number	39 ZD 1053
Fruit Kind	Inter-specific Plum
Variety Owner South Africa	Zaiger SA
Managing Agent	Custom Plum Company
Date of Entry South Africa	2003
Marketing Restrictions	Restrictions Apply
PBR	Approved
Tree Royalty Structure	\$1/tree on planting
Other	

Tree Characteristics

Chilling Requirement	Medium 400-450 Richardson
Growth Habit	Semi-upright
Vigour	Medium Vigour
Flowering date	Full Bloom Week 37- Week 38 in warm areas
Bears fruit on	Two-year-old wood and spurs
Other	

Other remarks:

Very good fruit set so early thinning is required, but the spacing and bearing position of the fruit is most important seeing that it sizes very easily but has a short stem that can cause the fruit pressing against the bearing unit. If there has set enough fruit on the trees, thinning to a single fruit is recommended to avoid unnecessary fruit drop due to short stems and large-sized fruit. Only an early natural fruit drop has been experienced. Trees can easily handle good yields and still produce the optimum fruit size of AA. Due to good yields, summer pruning needs to be done very early to ensure regrowth otherwise being a dark coloured fruit sunburn can become a problem. Fruit to leaf ratio needs to be optimum to minimise any potential sunburn and pit burn. Following a proper fertilizer program is recommended to assist and optimize good yields. Being a dark coloured fruit, irrigation management needs to be optimum, especially during warm days and heatwaves to minimize any potential quality problems.

Pollination

Flowering date: 10%	10% Flowering in warm areas Week 34 10% Flowering in colder areas Week 36
Pollinator 1	African Delight- Early to Mid-Flowers
Pollinator 2	Harry Pickstone- Mid to Late Flowers
Pollinator 3	Midnight Star- Late Flowers
Pollinator 4	Honey Punch- Mid to Late Flowers
% Pollination required	30%

Production Characteristics

Harvest date warm areas	Week 2-3
Harvest date colder areas	Week 3-4
Control Variety	

Sizing:	AA +
Skin Colour:	Black (Angelino Type)
Flesh Colour:	Yellow
Fruit Shape:	Slightly flat
Texture:	Crisp
Storage ability:	Excellent

Production:

Excellent, but bearing units needs to be renewed 25% per annum. It is best to harvest the fruit at cooler temperatures to avoid potential quality problems, so early mornings until the temperature becomes a risk is recommended. Due to the short stem, the fruit can press against the bearing unit, so when harvesting, it is important to pick the fruit carefully to avoid injuries.

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