

(i) GENERAL INFORMATION

Breeder	Zaiger's Genetics
Variety owner South Africa	Zaiger SA
Managing agent	Custom Plum Company
Fruit kind	Inter-specific plum
Marketing restrictions	Apply
Royalty structure	
» Tree	\$1/Tree on planting
» Hectare	Year 3 = \$750/ha



AUTUMN TREAT FACTSHEET

TREE CHARACTERISTICS

Chilling requirement	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 bearing units and spurs.

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Harvest date warm areas	Week 12 - week 14	
Harvest date colder areas	Week 13 - week 15	-
Control variety	n/a	9
Sizing	AA, AAA+	
Skin colour	Red / Maroon	
Flesh colour	Yellow	
Fruit shape	Slightly ovate	-
Texture	Crisp	٦

» Very good , but bearing units needs to be renewed 25% per annum.

» Being big sized fruit, fertiliser application should be closely monitored so that it aligns with the fruit growth pattern to prevent split pit.

POLLINATION

Beehive requirement	15 Beehives per hectare
Flowering date: 10%	10% Flowering in warm areas: Week 38 10% Flowering in colder areas: Week 40
Pollinator 1	<i>Leatitia</i> – Early to mid flowers Compatibility: 50%
Pollinator 2	<i>Crimson Kat</i> - Early to mid flowers Compatibility: 100%
Pollinator 3	<i>Songold</i> - Early to late flowers Compatibility: 100%
Pollinator 4	<i>Ruby Star</i> - Mid to late flowers Compatibility: 50%
% Pollination required	 » If planted in rows of example two rows Autumn Treat and 1 row Songold, only 10- 15% pollination is necessary. » Pollinators will then only be planted in the Songold rows. » If planted as a single cultivar then 30% pollination is needed.

STORAGE & SHIPPING

Storage ability	Very good
Shipping	Single temperature and steri
Storage trials	Independently evaluated

✓[™] OTHER REMARKS:

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 contributes to delayed bloom if the reserves status was not optimal. harvest fertilizer is applied the trees will not start growing again resulting in the use of reserves rather than building reserves.

Keep the leaves healthy and green after harvest to increase optimal reserve building as brown rust and Xanthomonas on the leaves can cause early leaf drop

Pollination like with any cultivar is one of the most important determining factors in achieving consistent 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 everchanging 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 consistent high yields.

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. Three seasonal leaf analysis is recommended to monitor the nutrient % at different growing stages as it is beneficial to keep the norms in balance with the fruit growing needs. This will also be beneficial to better manage the reserve status at the end of harvest so that when post-

resulting in limited reserve building and variable seasonal production. 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 have 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, but it is important not to overload the bearing units to ensure the brix levels is optimal. 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.

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