



## 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 Year 4+ = \$950/ha

## TREE CHARACTERISTICS

Chilling requirement	300-400 Richardson
Growth habit	Semi-upright
Vigour	Low-vigour, but do not over fertilise during the fruit enlargement stage.
Flowering date	Full bloom week 35-37.
Bears fruit on	One-year old, two-year old bearing units and spurs.

## PRODUCTION CHARACTERISTICS

Harvest date warm areas	Week 48 - week 49
Harvest date colder areas	Week 49 - week 50
Control variety	Black Splendor
Sizing	AA, AAA+
Skin colour	Red
Flesh colour	Red
Fruit shape	Round
Texture	Crisp & fine

Very good production, but bearing units needs to be renewed 25% per annum. All available new growth to be used optimally for renewal and increased quality fruit bearing positions.

## STORAGE & SHIPPING

Storage ability	Very
Shipping	Single temperature
Storage trials	Independently evaluated

## OTHER REMARKS:

Being an early cultivar, it will be beneficial to plant high density to increase the production without compromising optimal brix levels and fruit size. Considering the low vigour of the cultivar, planting on a high potential and well-drained soil is recommended. It is best to order trees 2 years before the planned planting date as well as using a vigorous and 2-year old rootstock. Rest breaking will be beneficial to ensure more even flowering and set of first generation fruits. This will ensure optimal brix levels is achieved. Dormex,



# RUBY DAWN

## FACTSHEET

## POLLINATION

Beehive requirement	10-12 Beehives per hectare
Flowering date: 10%	10% Flowering in warm areas: Week 33 10% Flowering in colder areas: Week 35
Pollinator 1	<b>Sierra Rose</b> – First flowers Compatibility: 50%
Pollinator 2	<b>Black Splendor</b> - First to mid flowers Compatibility: 50%
Pollinator 3	<b>Pioneer</b> – First to mid flowers Compatibility: 100%
Pollinator 4	<b>African Delight</b> - Mid to late flowers Compatibility: 100%
Pollinator 5	<b>Midnight Gold</b> - Mid to late flowers Compatibility: 50%
% Pollination required	» If planted in rows of example two rows Ruby Dawn and 1 row Black Splendor, only 15% pollination is necessary. » Pollinators will then be planted in with both cultivars. » If planted as a single cultivar then 25-30% pollination is needed.

although not registered for use on plums, is not recommended to be used on Ruby Dawn trees, even if they are non-bearing trees. Very good production with excellent fruit size for an early cultivar. Early thinning is not needed as the first natural fruit drop is normally followed by a second natural fruit drop before or during pip hardening stage. Late fruit drop have been experienced 6 weeks before harvest. Fruit is prone to rub marks so thinning of fruit which have set in bunches is recommended to prevent any unnecessary rub marks. Important to tie all bearing units on the wire and promote optimal fruit bearing positions to prevent any unnecessary rub marks. The fruit stays firm even if it is close to being harvested at the optimal stage but ripens quickly after the optimal fruit ripeness stage. The fruit have very good flavour when harvested at optimal ripeness. Due to low vigour, summer pruning needs to be done very early to ensure optimal regrowth as well as spur forming for next season's production. Prone to Xanthomonas so strong preventative program needs to be followed. Due to the low chilling requirements, post-harvest pruning needs to be implemented directly after harvest to prevent any stimulation of growth or flowering during the reserve building period. Post-harvest fertilizer can be applied at an early stage. Optimal reserve status is very important for sustainable yearly productions, as flowering and fruit set is normally when the soil temperatures are still low with little to no root activity. Slow release enriched fertilizer is beneficial to be used and applied with the first bud movement.