

# PLUMS

Part 1 – General Info (non-AK specific)

*Gary Masog, presenter*

Three common species:

- *Prunus domestica* (European plum)
  - Native to Caspian Sea area & Caucasus mountains
  - Introduced to Europe by Roman empire
- *Prunus salicina* (Japanese/Manchurian plums)
  - Commercially favored
- *Prunus americana* (American plum)
  - *Wild American plum, sometimes crossed with P. nigra and P. salicina, or selected seedlings of P. nigra or americana*

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- Many varieties listed as Zone 2
- Usually grow to less than 15 feet
- 4 to 6 years maturity for fruit-bearing
- Need winter chill hours of 500 to 900
- Food use consideration – cling vs. free stone

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- Bloom timing and ripening dates in catalogs not historically accurate for Alaska
  - Bloom time (and pollination period) 5 to 6 weeks later
  - Ripening dates are 4 to 5 weeks later
    - Slow to ripen at end of season, due to lower AK temps

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- Plum pollination requirements are “demanding”
  - Research before you invest time & money!
  - Prunus Americana & Nigra – good pollinizers
- Pruning & Thinning
  - Prune 20% annually (leave upright healthy stock)
  - Thin to leave one plum per cluster

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- Seed Propagation
  - Vise-crack seed and refrigerate or place in mix outdoors for winter
  - Use 50/50 sand perlite mix
  - Grow true to seed (opomixis) – if no wild plum influence
- Grafting
  - Literature says bud grafting most successful
  - Scion graft at red bud stage possible (per Gary)

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## Part 2 – Alaskan Experiences

*Gary Masog, presenter*

<b>APFGA MEMBER EXPERIENCES WITH PLUMS</b>			
<b>Report as of 2017 Harvest Year</b>			
<b>Grower</b>	<b>Varieties Tried</b>	<b>Variety Success Notes</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Gary Masog	Opal	Ripened last 2 summers	
<i>E. Anchorage/Muldoon</i>	Vic Red	Ripened 2017, small but sweet.	
	Adirondack Gold	Ripened last 2 summers	
	Dave's Yellow (see D Rankin)	No fruit yet	3 years old
Bob Purvis	See notes for recommendations		Recommends Northern Blue Toka for S. Central (Zone 3, self-fertile - hardy in Fbks but doesn't ripen)
<i>Lives in L48</i>			Also recommends Zapie, La Crescent.
Vic Johansen	Manchester	Ripened 2017	Also has Lee Red, Vic Red, Brook Red
<i>Fairbanks</i>	Assinboine	Ripened 2017	
Feller	3 yellow plums	One is good - doesn't know varieties	
<i>Anchorage S. Addition</i>			
Dave Rankin	Yellow plum, unknown variety from Stark's Nursery	Very good and large.	Famous AK plum, propagated successfully to many. Known as "Dave's yellow". 30 years old.
<i>S. Anch, tree moved to Spenard in ~2012</i>			

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<b>APFGA MEMBER EXPERIENCES WITH PLUMS</b>			
<b>Report as of 2017 Harvest Year</b>			
Tom Marshall <i>Anchorage Airport Heights</i>	Opal	Ripens with good plums	30 years old, over 10 feet tall.
Ardusers <i>S. Anch Rabbit Creek</i>	Unknown blue plum	Golf-ball sized, ripened last 4 years	
Nancy Moore Big Lake <i>Protected from N. wind and south-facing</i>	Lee Red ----- Isaac ----- Manchurian ----- Dave's Yellow	1.5 inch, first to ripen. ----- Small, purple sweet ----- Top-working tree to Lee and ----- Dave's Yellow ----- 1.5 inch, v good off tree	New plantings 2017 of Kuban Delight, Kuban, Dunbar, Mirabella, Wild Goose, Nana beach, and Opal. Used Krymsk 1 as rootstock
Barb Henjum <i>Chugiak</i>	One unknown tree	Picked 40 gallons is 2017	Planted by Dwight Bradley (former owner) in 2001.
Lammers Orchard	Update after his presentation		
Community Orchard <i>Anchorage Government Hill</i>			Will be testing these: Opal; Black Ice; Vic Red; Superior; Feller's Yellow; Dave's Yellow; Alderman; Comet

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## Part 3 – Potential Varieties Gary Masog, presenter

Potential Plums Suitable for Alaskan Trial									
<b>Species (Common name)</b>	P. domestica (European)	P. domestica (European)	P. domestica (European)	P. Americana (American)	P. Americana (American)	P. Americana (American)		P. Americana (American)	P. Americana (American)
<b>Variety</b>	Mount Royal	Stanley	Kuban Comet	Toka "Bubble gum"	Black Ice	Brookgold	Pembina	Underwood	Earliblue
<b>Origins</b>	Canada	Canada	Krymsk RUS	S. Dakota ##		Manch. seedling		U. of Minnesota	
<b>Hardiness</b>	Zone 3-4 *	Zone 3-4 **	Zone 4 ?	Zone 2-4, to -50F	Zone 3-4	Zone 3	"Hardy"	"Very hardy"	Zone 4
<b>Skin</b>	Blue	Blue		Red	Dk blue	Yellow	Red	Red	Blue
<b>Flesh</b>	Yellow	Yellow	Red-->dk purple	Yellow	Red	Yellow?		Yellow	Yellow
<b>Size</b>				Med to large	2 inch		Small	Sm heart-shaped	
<b>Ripening +++</b>	Mid-August	Early Sept ***	Late July #	Mid-Aug to Sept	July/Aug	August, b4 Opal	Cracks & drops	Mid Aug	July
<b>Pollination</b>	Self-fertile			Self-fertile ###	Use Toka or P. americana	\$\$		Use Toka or P. americana	Self-fertile
<b>Taste</b>	Delicious off tree	Sweet & dry	???	Rich and spicy				Tart skin	
<b>Stone</b>	Free		Cling	Cling	Free	Free	Cling	Cling	???
<b>Nursery Source</b>	???		Raintree	???	???	????			???
<b>AK Potential</b>	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	????	NO		YES #####
<b>NOTES</b>									
Japanese/ Manchurian plums down to Zone 5 - not hardy enough for AK.					# Hangs on tree - doesn't crack				
+++ All ripening dates are L48, add 4-5 weeks for Alaska					## Famous cross btwn P. americana and Apricot of China				
* Reportedly hardy to minus 20F					### Good pollinizer for other plums				
** Less hardy than Mt Royal					#### Recommended for good potential by Bob Purvis (APFGA founder)				
*** Not early enough, needs warmth to ripen ~70 deg					\$\$ Manchurian plum or Nanking cherry				



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## Variety Photos

*Gary Masog, presenter*



MOUNT ROYAL



TOKA



BLACK ICE

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## Variety Photos

*Gary Masog, presenter*



Americana



Opal



Vic Red

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## Variety Photos

*Gary Masog, presenter*



Brookgold



Earliblue



Underwood