

Hardy Apricot (*Prunus armeniaca*)

Distribution: The native range of the Hardy Apricot is somewhat uncertain due to its extensive cultivation, though most certainly somewhere in Asia. It is extensively cultivated in many countries and grows wild in many places.

Growth: Hardy Apricot is a small tree that reaches 20 to 30 feet in height. The flowers are white to pinkish petals and produced singly or in pairs in early spring before leaves. The fruit is similar to a small peach and typically 1 inch in diameter. The taste can range from sweet to tart which ripens in July and August. Healthy trees typically live 20 to 30 years.

Adaptability: Hardy Apricot is generally suited to USDA zones 4 to 8. It prefers well-drained soil and full sun. The Apricots grow well in climates with long summers.

Comments: Hardy Apricot trees can self-pollinate but more trees will result in heavier fruit sets. Fruit can be used for jams, jellies and dried snacks. It also can provide a food source for small wildlife and birds.

