

Can you afford to miss out on the latest developments in stone fruit varieties?

The Zaiger Inc Genetics Breeding Programme in Southern Africa will add value to your business.



Michael Anderson, Manager Zaiger SA cc, explains the conditions and associated costs for growing Zaiger varieties. He suggests that many local growers may be inadequately informed on the accessibility and cost of growing Zaiger products in South Africa . . .

THE ZAIGER PEDIGREE

Zaiger Genetics, located in Modesto, California, is one of the world's best known stone fruit breeding programmes. It is a dedicated family business, now with third generation participation, that has been operating for more than forty years. .

One of the main differences between the "Zaiger Programme" and any other is the degree to which the Zaiger programme has included the creation of unique products (new fruit types with trade marks) through complex and exacting hybridization between species. During the period from 1978 to 1999 this programme was represented in South Africa by SAPO Trust, and from 1999 Zaiger SA cc, jointly owned by Jim Button and Chris Goodman, assumed this responsibility.

In order to ensure a smooth transition in the management of the programme, SAPO Trust and Zaiger SA agreed to pool and share all selections of peaches and nectarines. Included in this arrangement were true apricots and plums that had not previously been commercialized by SAPO Trust, and other similar selections imported by Zaiger SA before the end of 2010.

Cherries and inter-specific hybrids such as "pluots" and "apriums" were excluded from this agreement. Part of the agreement between SAPO Trust and Zaiger SA recognized and endorsed a pre-existing agreement between SAPO Trust and Overvaal Products which gave some exclusivity to the latter to grow and market certain "low-chill peaches and nectarines."

Table 1. Interspecific Hybrids.

	Variety Name	Type Colour	Approx Chilling	Maturity WK (Ceres)	Remarks
I/S APRICOTS	I6316	I/S Cot	Low	46	PBR Pending
	Autumn Sprite	I/S Cot	Medium	7	Evaluating
	I7062	I/S Cot	Medium	1	PBR Pending
	I6699	I/S Cot	Medium/High	48	PBR Pending
	I7059	I/S Cot	High	46	PBR Pending
I/S PLUMS	Spring Flavor	I/S Plum	Low	47	Evaluating
	Dapple Dandy	I/S Plum	Medium	3	PBR Pending
	Dapple Fire	I/S Plum	Medium	2	Evaluating
	I6330	I/S Plum	Medium	52	PBR Pending
	Flavorosa	I/S Plum	Medium	48	Commercial
	Flavor Royale	I/S Plum	Medium/High	49	Evaluating
	I6031	I/S Plum	Medium/High	3	PBR Pending

THE CURRENT ACCESSIBILITY, LICENSING PROCEDURES, AND COSTS OF GROWING ZAIGER VARIETIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

CHERRIES

There are currently three "low-chill" cherry varieties on the variety list and over thirty new cherry and cherry-interspecific hybrids under trial in the country. Of these, a significant number require less winter chilling than traditional cherries and are expected to open up new areas of the country to commercial cherry growing. These are amongst the most popular new varieties being planted in California.

Zaiger SA has entered into an exclusive license arrangement with the DuToit Group (Pty) Ltd for the evaluation and commercialization of all cherry selections imported into South Africa by Zaiger SA between 2000 and the end of 2010.

In terms of this agreement,

- DuToits have the sole right to grow and to market all cherry selections imported by Zaiger SA
- DuToits have the right to sub-license additional growers
- DuToit's rights will extend for the duration of each specific Plant Breeders' Right

Any grower wishing to grow Zaiger cherries should approach the DuToit Group directly.

INTERSPECIFIC HYBRIDS

This group of products includes all selections that have at least some genes from a different species and would include all Pluots, Apriums, Nectaplums, and Peacotums.

There are currently four Zaiger inter-specific hybrids on the variety list and at least seven more in the process of obtaining Plant Breeders' Rights and Variety Listing (Table 1). There are over one hundred further selections under evaluation, many similar to Flavor King and ripening as late as week thirteen.

The Fresca Group and its subsidiary, Mack Multiples have the exclusive rights to license Growers for these products in South Africa. This is achieved in close collaboration with Zaiger SA, however all Grower licensing is directly between Fresca and the Grower. Fresca also has the exclusive rights to import and to market these varieties into the United Kingdom. Fresca has recently reviewed this "Marketing Right" which may have resulted in a restriction in use of these products.

COSTS (Interspecific Hybrids)

Fresca requires no sign-up fee, nor any basic annual participation fee. They require a tree royalty of US\$1.00 per tree and a production royalty of \$750 per hectare for third leaf and \$950 per hectare per year for subsequent years in the life of the orchard.



Table 2. Medium and high-chill* nectarine and peach varieties with no restrictions on plantings.

Variety Name	Type	Flesh Colour	Approx Chilling	Maturity WK (Ceres)	Remarks
Arctic Jewel	Nect	White	High	51	
Arctic Red	Nect	White	High	2	
I6286	Nect	White	High	52	PBR Pending
Arctic Snow	Nect	White	High	8	
Diamond Zee	Nect	Yellow	High	5	
Honey Blaze	Nect	Yellow	Medium/High	51	
Honey Diva	Nect	Yellow	Medium/High	5	
Honey Kist	Nect	Yellow	Medium	50	
Queen Giant	Nect	White	Medium/High	51	
Red Roy	Nect	Yellow	Medium	48	
Royal Glo	Nect	Yellow	Medium	47	
Royal Spring	Nect	Yellow	Medium	49	
Southern Glo	Nect	Yellow	Medium/High	49	Not Recommended for Cape
Summer Glo	Nect	Yellow	Medium	50	
Scarlet Rich	Peach	Yellow	Medium	2	
Fire Rich	Peach	Yellow	Medium/High	51	
Summer Zee	Peach	Yellow	Medium/High	52	
Snow Prince	Peach	White	High	48	
Superich	Peach	Yellow	High	48	
Sweet December	Peach	Yellow	Medium/High	49	
Sun Rich	Peach	Yellow	High	2	
Sweet Dream	Peach	Yellow	High	2	
Sweet Jim	Peach	White	High	3	
Sweet September	Peach	Yellow	High	12	
Arctic Sweet	Nect	White	Low/Medium	51	
Earlirich	Peach	Yellow	Medium	52	
Jim Dandy	Peach	Yellow	Low/Medium	1	

* Medium and high-chill nectarines/peaches (those flowering later than Sunlite) and ripening after week fifty in the Northern Province, are available to growers with no restrictions throughout the country.

Table 3. Low-chill nectarine and peach varieties with no limited restrictions on plantings.

Variety Name	Type	Flesh Colour	Approx Chilling	Maturity WK (Ceres)	Remarks
African Glo	Nect	Yellow	Low	45	Not Recommended for Cape
April Glo	Nect	Yellow	Low	45	Not Recommended for Cape
Crimson Glo	Nect	Yellow	Low	45	Not Recommended for Cape
Royal Sun®	Nect	Yellow	Low	46	No Restrictions
Arctic Spring®	Nect	White	Low	46	Limited release granted by Overvaal
Arctic Star	Nect	White	Low	48	No Restrictions
Alaska Red	Nect	White	Low	50	Limited release granted by Overvaal
Ruby Glo	Nect	Yellow	Low	50	No Restrictions
Silver Fire	Nect	White	Low/Medium	46	Not Recommended for Cape
Earlisun	Peach	Yellow	Low	41	Not Recommended for Cape
Brittany Lane	Peach	Yellow	Medium	48	No Restrictions
Mystic Magic	Peach	White	Low	44	Not Recommended for Cape

PEACHES AND NECTARINES

There are twenty three nectarine and twelve Zaiger peach varieties on the official Variety List with a further eleven nectarine and four peach selections being processed. There are over one hundred selections in the process of importation and evaluation.

There appears to be some confusion over restrictions and the general availability of Zaiger peaches and nectarines to growers. To clarify the current situation please refer to Tables 2 and 3.

Low-Chill peaches and nectarines are subject to an Exclusivity Agreement with Overvaal. Overvaal has recently renounced exclusivity on a number of peaches and nectarines within this category, and has relaxed exclusivity on some others. Any grower in any area is now able to access the following "Low-Chill" nectarine/peach varieties. (Table 3)

COSTS (Peaches and nectarines)

Zaiger SA requires a once-off sign-up fee of R5,000.00. There is no annual participation fee. A tree royalty of US\$1.00 plus a production royalty of \$750 per hectare for third leaf and \$950 per hectare per year for subsequent years in the life of the orchard will be payable. In certain cases where early varieties grown in some areas are not able to carry these royalties due to low yields and small fruit size, Zaiger SA has reduced the royalties to permit growers to remain competitive.

Please visit our web site (<http://www.zaiger-sa.co.za/>) for up to date information on:

- Licensing details and downloadable contracts
- Commercial Varieties
- New Varieties *
- Weekly updates on selections and evaluation results *

*Please note that all Zaiger SA Licensees qualify for a Password which grants access to the latest information on products for which they are licensed. To request your password please contact Michael Anderson.

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