



Pine Island Nursery

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LOW CHILL PLUMS

The University of Florida's plum breeding program has successfully developed several Japanese plum varieties suitable for Florida's mild winters. Like the low chill peaches, the plums were developed as a potential new commercial fruit crop for Florida, but they are an excellent choice for the home landscape as well. They are deciduous trees and go completely dormant in the winter. Flowers and new leaves typically emerge February-March and the fruit ripens May-June. The fruit size is adequate and the fruit quality is excellent. However, the trees have a short lifespan, and usually only survive 5-8 years.

A chill hour is a unit of time at or below 45F and above 32F.

Gulf Ruby is an early ripening plum with red skin and yellow flesh. The tree grows to approximately 15'x 15'. It is a pollinator for the Gulf Gold, and it fruits best with 225 chill hours.

Gulf Gold is a dwarf yellow fleshed plum with a red skin when ripe. Both the Gulf Ruby and Gulf Gold have lower chill hour requirements, making them both good choices for Southern Florida. It is the sweetest of the Gulf series and fruits best with 250 chill hours.

Santa Rosa is best suited for Orlando north to the Georgia border. The fruit has a purple to red skin with yellow sweet/tart flesh. They are a high quality large fruited variety that are best paired with Methley. It fruits best with 250-350 chill hours.

Methley is self pollinating and does not need to be paired with another variety. It is a heavy producer of red skinned, red fleshed high quality fruit. It is best grown in the same region of Florida as the Santa Rosa, and fruits best with 250-350 chill hours.

Office Hours:

8:00am - 4:30pm EST, Monday - Friday

9:00am - 3:00pm EST, Saturday

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