

NEW PLUM Blues Jam™

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Blues Jam™

Blues Jam™ is a unique processing plum that resembles Damson in astringency that requires recipe management. As with Damson, the astringency can be managed in several ways. Freezing and thawing the fruit before processing moderates astringency and improves color. Astringency can also be moderated by blending with a less astringent fruit such as Jam Session and many other plums. It has favorable processed color and good flavor that helps the final

products' shelf life. Due to its high performance in pilot processing trials conducted by food scientists, we anticipate acceptance of Blues Jam™ products by consumers. Arbor Hill of Naples, NY, has been selling a preserve made from Blues Jam for several years.

Blues Jam™ resulted from hybridizing 'Furst' with an unknown male parent. Seeds of open pollinated trees of Furst were saved in 1958 by John P. Watson (deceased), a senior research associate in the former Department of Pomology and Viticulture (now part of the Department of Hort. Sci.). In 1970, Watson selected and propagated the seedling tree that he designated as NY 58.904.1 because its fruit was similar to Damson and it cropped very heavily. In subsequent trials at Geneva and on New York farms this selection was designated as NY 9041. Trees of Blues Jam™ proved to be hardy and crop heavily with little tendency to be biennial, and are self-fertile. Moderate mite susceptibility is its only known fault.

Blues Jam™ ripens in mid-September in Geneva, about a week after Stanley. The fruit weigh approximately 20g, which is slightly larger than Jam Session™. They have blue skin and green-amber flesh and are approximately 1" long and 3/4" wide. Processed jams, jellies and sauces of plum products containing Blues Jam™ blended with milder flavored, less well colored, cultivars gave excellent taste test results and had long shelf life stability. Fruit are completely freestone and oblong in shape.

The tree has medium vigor and is readily machine harvestable via shake and catch methods. Black knot and brown rot tolerances of Blues Jam™ are similar to that of Damson (above average).

Trees of Blues Jam™ are available from commercial nurseries. Such nurseries must acquire their legal permit to grow this trademarked cultivar from International Plant Management, Inc., of Lawrence, MI.