

**Cultivar Selection Guide for Florida-Grown Pomegranates: Horticultural Traits** [but, first, please see the [Notes](#) ]. Prepared by Bill Castle [bcastle@ufl.edu], University of Florida

Selection		Yield Potential <sup>1</sup>				Fruit		Seed/Aril <sup>2</sup>			Juice <sup>3</sup>		General remarks
[For <i>photos</i> of a selection, click on the pom name]		Also known as:	Origin	USDA ID <sup>4</sup>	Quantity	Notes	Size <sup>5</sup>	Color	Size	Color	Hardness	Flavor	
Afganski	Russian [R] 26		Turkmenistan	DPUN 071	H	Good early bearing with consistent cropping	S-M	Yellow-red accent	M-L	Red	H	Mild, slightly tart	
Alk Pust Ghermez Saveh	Iran [I] 2		Iran	DPUN 076	L		S	Yellow-Pink	M	Yellow	M	Good	Fruit tear-drop shaped and squarish; thin peel
Al-sirin-nar	R6		Turkmenistan	DPUN 060	H++	Precocious; heavy cropping	M-L	Red	L	Red	H	Very good; slightly tart	
Apseronski	R29		Turkmenistan	DPUN 072	L	Clearly lower yielding than Ap. krasnyi	S-M	Pink-red	M-L	Pearl	M	Different taste; good;	
Apseronski krasnyi	R12		Turkmenistan	DPUN 065	L-M		M	Light red	L	Pearl	M	Mild, pleasant,	
Azadi			Turkmenistan	DPUN 135	H	Precocious; bears consistently good crops	M-L	Yellow; sometimes pinkish	M-L	Pink tips	S	Sweetish, pleasant	
Bala Miursal			Azerbaijan	DPUN 070	L-H	Young-tree cropping is variable	M	Mostly pinkish	M-L	Pearl	H	Bland	
Boris #2			North Carolina		L-M	[information from a few young trees at two locations]	S	Yellow, pink accent	M	Pink tips	H	Tart	
Christina			North Florida		M-H		M-L	Yellow	M-L	Dark cream	H	Mild	McTeer: Canopy and fruit less affected by diseases
Cranberry			California	DPUN 086	H	[rating based on only one tree]	M-L	Red	L	Red	M	Tart	
Desertnyi			Turkmenistan	DPUN 108	H		S	Pinkish-red	S		S++	Slightly tart	
Entek Habi saveh	I 8		Iran	DPUN 079	L	Seems prone to sunburn and fruit splitting	S	Yellow, pink accent	S	Pearl	M	Tart	Excellent peel and red aril colors develop by July. Red color in peel at ends of fruit
Eve			California	DPUN 044	M	Precocious	M	Red	L	Red	H	Pleasant; mild	
Eversweet			Lebanon; California	DPUN 050	M	[information from a few young trees at one site]	L	Yellow	L	Light yellow	M	Mild; sweet	
Gainey sweet			Cairo, GA		H	Consistent cropping; precocious	M-L	Mostly yellow	M-L	Light yellow	M	Sweet, pleasant	McTeer: Canopy and fruit less affected by diseases
Girkanets			Turkmenistan	DPUN 126	H	Precocious; good consistent cropping	M-L	Red	M-L	Red	M	Very good; sweet/tart	
Gissarskii rozovyi			Turkmenistan	DPUN 107	L-H	Trees very variable in cropping	M-L	Yellow-pinkish	M-L	Pink tips	S	Very good; tart	
Granada			California	DPUN 279	M	Trees can be variable in yield	M-L	Mostly pinkish	M	Pearl	M-H	Bland	
Jimmy Roppe			Private home, Georgia, USA		M		M	Green-yellow	M	Light yellow	H	Bland	
Kaim-anor	R7		Azerbaijan	DPUN 061	H	Consistently good cropping	M-L	Mostly red, yellow accent	M	Pearl	M	Pleasant, mild	Seeds roundish and plump like pearls
Kaj-acik-anor	R9		Turkmenistan	DPUN 063	L-M		M	Yellow-light pink accent	M	Pink	M	Good; mild; slightly tart	
Kala Bala Miursal	R16		Azerbaijan	DPUN 066	M-H	[rating based on only one tree]	L	Pink	M-L	Red	H	Pleasant with some tartness	
Kazake	R30		Uzbekistan	DPUN 073	M	Consistent from tree to tree	S	Yellow	M	Red tips	S-M	Very good	Fruit tear-drop shaped
Kunduzski	R24		Turkmenistan	DPUN 069	L	Cropping very poor so far on 5 year old plants	S	Red	M	Pink-Lt. red	S	Mild, pleasant, slightly tart	
Larkin			Wewahitchka, FL		H+	Small tree; very precocious; heavy cropping	M	Mostly pinkish	S	Light yellow	M	Pleasant like Azadi	Fruit splitting problem?
Mack Glass			Private home, Marianna, FL		M	[information from a few young trees at one site]	M	Yellow, pink accent	S	Pink tips	H	Tart, sour	
Medovyi Vahsha			Turkmenistan	DPUN 109	H+	Excellent, consistent cropping	S-M	Light red	M-L	Red	S	Mild, pleasant	Excellent peel and red aril colors develop by July.
Nikitski ranni	R19		Turkmenistan	DPUN 019	H	Cropped well at Univ. Georgia farm, Tifton	M	Light red	L	Light pink	H	Good, sweet	
Padgett			Private home, Perry, FL		M		M-L	Yellow, pink accent	S-M	Red	H	Tart, sour	
Parfyanka			Turkmenistan	DPUN 124	L-M	Consistent among plants	M-L	Pink	S-M	Red	S	Very good; tart	
Plantation Sweet			An old Georgia plantation		M	[information from a few young trees at one site]	L	Yellow, pink accent	M-l	Red	H	Tart	Propagated in the 1940s at the University of Georgia farm, Tifton
Red Silk			Private, Tifton area, GA		M-H	[information from a few young trees at one site]	M	Red	M	Red	M-H	Tart and pleasant	
Saartuzski	R31		Turkmenistan	DPUN 074	L		S-M	Light orange-yellow	S-M	White-lt. pink	H	Tart	
Sakerdze	R5		Turkmenistan	DPUN 059	M-H	Consistent year to year and across all plants	M-L	Pinkish	M-L	Red	H	Tart	
Salavatski	R8		Turkmenistan	DPUN 062	H+	Early bearing, very strong consistent cropping	M-L	Mostly yellow	M	Light pink	M	Very good	
Shari's			Medart, FL		H+	Small tree; very precocious; heavy cropping	S-M	Mostly red, yellow accent	S-M	Pink tips	M	Tart	
Shirin Pust Ghermez Saveh	I 11		Iran	DPUN 080	M	[rating based on only a few trees]	L	Pink-red	M	Light red	M	Mild, slightly tart	
Shirin Zigar			Turkmenistan	DPUN 103	L	Slow to start bearing followed by light crops	S-M	Red	M	Pink tips	M	Bland	
Sin pepe	Pink Satin; Pink Ice		Chico, California		L-M		M	Mostly yellow	M	Light yellow	S	Sweet	
Sirenevyyi			Turkmenistan	DPUN 51	L-M	Seems to come into bearing later than other cultivars; tall, upright plants	M-L	Yellow-orange [peach]	M	Red	S-M	Very good	
Surh-anor	R33; Pecos		Turkmenistan	DPUN 075	H+	Ex. consistent cropping with early bearing	M-L	Yellow; pink accent	M	Pink tips	M	Sweet with slight tartness	
Sweet			California	DPUN 30	M-H		M-L	Yellow, pink accent	M	Light pink tips	M	Mild	
Tabestani Malas Biranden Saveh	I 6		Iran	DPUN 077	L		M	Red	M	Red	Red	Good; slight sweetness; tart	
Vietnam			Vietnam		H	Trees are mostly evergreen and vigorous	M-L	Mostly yellow; pink accent	L	Light red	H	Mild,	Seeds have large embryo. Plants are virtually all seedlings
Vkusnyi			Turkmenistan	DPUN 117	H	Bears early and very good consistent crops	L	Dark red	M	Dark red	S-M	Very good; mild, slightly tart	
Vories			Gainesville, FL		M		L	Yellow	M	Light yellow	H	Sweet	
Wonderful			California	DPUN 081	L-H	Potential to bear 100+ fruit by age 4 years, but may alternate bear; also, may require 3-4 years before good cropping starts to occur.	L	Yellow-orange [peach]	L	Red	M	Very good; slightly tart	

**Notes**

**How reliable is the information?** The tabulated information is derived from observations taken over the years 2010-2016 on young plants generally about 2-8 years old. However, there is an emphasis on observations collected in 2015=16 from cooperators projects in the Dundee and Zolfo Springs areas and earlier observations from trials at Water Conserv II. The information is not perfect because variability can always be expected when farming a crop like pomegranates. Peel and aril color may vary depending on the weather [temperature; rainfall], but the cropping characteristics, fruit size and most of the other traits have proven to be reasonably consistent enough to be used in describing the cultivars as they grow in Florida. So, the **answer to the question** is: Reliable enough to be useful in comparing groups of cultivars, and to some extent, individual cultivars. For example, to find pomegranates for fresh use, one could start by only choosing that group of selections with soft seeds and then deciding which pomegranates to choose based on yield or other traits important to you. However, there certainly are pomegranate cultivars with distinctive and consistent characteristics like Vkusnyi, Christina and Girkanets that express themselves regardless of where the selections are grown in Florida.

**Cold hardiness.** In general, hard-seeded sweet/tart red varieties are thought to be the most cold hardy, i.e., their ability to withstand cold winter temperatures; soft-seeded yellow ones are considered to be less tolerant. Placing the various pomegranate varieties into those categories is unproven in Florida. Like many other perennial tree crops, pomegranates, regardless of the type, seem to be vulnerable to winter cold as young plants [0-2 years old] and must be protected until established. Also, as with many plants, the expression of cold hardiness has a great deal to do with the natural ability of a plant and its interaction with the particular weather conditions in the Fall before Winter.

1. **Yield Potential.** Why "Potential?" A plant with a good crop on it in July usually has fewer fruit remaining 2 months later because of fruit splitting, drop or other diseases currently under study in Florida. Therefore, the term "Potential" is used to reflect what is commonly observed during the summer before any fruit losses occur.

2. **Seed/Aril.** The parts of pomegranate seeds are often confused. When the fruit is opened, the edible part is the seed. The seeds of many different plants are covered with a seed coat. In the case of the pom seed, the outer seed coat is a specialized fleshy or juicy structure called an aril. The "color" of the seed actually is located in the juice of the aril. Click [here](#) for a comparison of seed sizes.

3. **Juice.** As with the other traits, the comments represent a combination of experience; however, in this instance, the juice descriptions are mostly based on fruit harvested in late August-early Septemeber, 2015, from one trial located in Dundee. That is meaningful because for Florida, that harvest time was somewhat later than usual. Juice flavor might have been better than for fruit harvested earlier. There would likely be enhanced red color development.

4. **USDA ID.** In the U.S. National Clonal Germplasm Repository System, pomegranates are in a collection maintained at Davis, CA. The pomegranate accessions are identified by a DPUN number.

5. **Fruit size.** These ratings are "Mostly," i.e., if one observed a number of Afganski trees over a period of years, the fruit would MOSTLY be small- to medium-sized. There would be a few small fruit and a few large ones, but most of the fruit would be medium sized. Furthermore, fruit size may be affected by crop size, i.e., the larger the crop, the smaller individual fruit size might be regardless of the cultivar. If that is true for Florida-grown pomegranates is unknown. Click [here](#) for a comparision of fruit sizes.

#### **Key to Symbols**

**Ex.** = Excellent; **H** = High or Hard; **Lt.** = Light; **L** = Low; **M** = Medium; **S** = Small; **SI** = Slight