

**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>	
[For photos 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	Brix	General remarks
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		Excellent peel and red aril colors develop by July.
Entek Habi saveh	I 8	Iran	DPUN 079	L	Seems prone to sunburn and fruit splitting	S	Yellow, pink accent	S	Pearl	M	Tart		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		
Sirenevyy		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		L	Yellow, pink accent	M	Light pink tips	M	Mild		
Tabestani Malas Biranden Saveh	I6	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 cooperator 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 compariosn of fruit sizes.

#### Key to Symbols

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