Apricot genetic resources in Turkey

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Abstract
In Turkish the superior, sweet seeded apricot clones are called 'Kayisi' and old, local seedlings
with smaller fruit and bitter seeds are called 'Zerdali'. Some Zerdali types have sweet seed. In
Turkey over 70% of trees are budded onto seedlings. The seed propagated apricots are called in
Turkey as 'wild apricots' as well. This terminology is still 'black box' in apricot producing
countries. Extensive variability exists among wild apricots and cultivars within and between
districts in quality and time of harvest. Although most cultivars mature between the end of May
and the beginning of August and wild apricot populations mature from mid-July until the 20-
25th August, some wild apricot forms mature in late September. These forms may be important
to extend the harvest period. Late blooming and growth dwarf types have also been reported
among the native apricot seedling populations in the Erzincan plain. The Sakit valley located in
Mediterranean coastal region has also important early maturated apricot genetic resources.
There were numerous local types coming from seeds in this valley and a selection study
conducted on these materials and some promising Sakit types has been released as cultivar
candidate.

Key words: apricots, genetic resources, wild apricots

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