

“Black Amber” Plum

Prunus subg. Prunus “Black Amber”



General Information

- Edible
- Sun Exposure: Full sun
- Water needs: Irrigate in dry periods. Let the soil dry out then water again.
- Cold Tolerance: up to -20 °F
- Chill Requirement: 400 hours
- Harvest season: August - September

Planting Guide

- Location: Plant in a sheltered location with moist but well drained soil and lots of sun.
- Time of Year: Plant in late winter or early spring when trees are dormant.
- Water needs: Water thoroughly after planting. Keep well watered for the first few weeks after planting.
- Pollination: This type of plum is self-sterile, which means it will need another plum tree to bear fruit.

Care Guide

- Thinning: Plums may require fruit thinning if the crop is too thick. While the fruits are developing, remove all misshapen or damaged fruit or a few fruits from a particularly full area
- Fertilization: Once established, provide a thick layer of manure or compost around the base of the tree every April.
- Pruning: It is best to prune the tree in Summer to reduce the chance of disease.

Pest Management:

- Leaf Curl Plum Aphid
 - Cultural Control: managing the aphid population when they first appear
 - Inspect your plum tree in the early spring before the leaf buds begin to open
 - Remove all the aphids you see by spraying the leaf shoots with a strong jet of water from a garden hose
 - On smaller trees, it might be possible to manually remove and crush the aphids while wearing gardening gloves
 - Dormant Sprays: manage aphid eggs that overwinter on plum trees by spraying with horticultural mineral oil
 - Wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts, safety goggles, and chemical-proof gloves
 - Apply the spray after rainy or foggy weather using a hose sprayer or pump sprayer in late fall or early winter. You can also spray anytime until the leaf buds begin to open
 - Soak all parts of the tree in the horticultural mineral oil solution
 - Avoid applying during rainy or foggy weather, when temperatures are below freezing, or when a tree may be drought-stressed
 - Spraying during the growing season: apply growing season insecticide to manage the aphid population
 - Spray an insecticide before the leaves begin to curl up around the aphids
 - The ideal time to spray is either before the tree blossoms or when the petals begin to fade and fall from the tree
 - Ideal insecticides
 - Neem extract azadirachtin
 - Kaolin
 - Pyrethrin
 - Insecticidal soap (may require multiple applications)
 - *Beauveria bassiana* (beneficial fungus)
 - Horticultural mineral oil
 - Ingredients to avoid (damaging to beneficial insects, like bees)
 - Acetamiprid
 - Carbaryl
 - Esfenvalerate
 - Gamma-cyhalothrin
 - Spinosad
 - Zeta-cypermethrin
 - Note: You can make trees less attractive to aphids by avoiding heavy watering and over-fertilization
 - Allow the soil surface beneath plum trees to dry out between waterings
 - Only apply moderate amounts of fertilizer ($\frac{1}{8}$ lb of Nitrogen for every year of the tree's life annually to up to 8 years of age followed by 1 lb of Nitrogen annually)

- Plum Pocket Disease (*Taphrina communis*)
 - Spray the affected tree with a dormant-period spray that contains the fungicide, chlorothalonil
 - Wear protective clothing
 - Apply the spray in late winter or early spring before the buds begin to grow
 - If plum pocket disease develops on an unsprayed tree, remove the affected fruit and a large proportion of unaffected fruit to maintain tree health
 - Water and fertilize the tree during the active growing period

Sources:

<https://www.gardens4you.co.uk/prunus-domestica-black-amber-plum-tree-gb-en.html#:~:text=How%20to%20take%20care%20of,they%20will%20compete%20for%20nutrients.>

<https://www.shootgardening.co.uk/plant/prunus-black-amber>

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